EAST BAY EXPRESS

JUNE 30-JULY 6, 2010 [illegible] EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

In Small Business Monthly

Factories for the Future

With [illegible] preservation of [illegible] manufacturing. By Michele Ellson

FULL DISCLOSURE 10

POLICE BREAK THE LAW

Targeting of Quan appears [illegible]

CULTURE SPY 17

WEST OAKLAND HAS THE BLUES

A new "Walk of Fame" commemorates blues history in West Oakland. By Rachel [illegible]

The doors at Esther's Orbit Room have padlocks on them. Iron grills block the windows, which are gathering dust. Above them hangs an iconic sign with purple lettering, and a picture of a rocket blasting off. For years Esther's was the last vestige of a metropolitan corridor that no longer exists. It used to be a breakfast club with a large proscenium stage located at the current site of the 7th Street post office. According to local blues guitarist Ronnie Stewart, it was Oakland's answer to the juke joints in Motor City or the French Quarter. Al Green made his first West Coast appearance at Esther's in the mid Sixties, Stewart said. B.B. King played there. So did T-Bone Walker. *Story inside*

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[illegible] penalize water conservation in Oakland.

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On the Cover *Carla Din. Photo by Chris Duffey.*

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NEWS & OPINION

LETTERS

[illegible]

O'er Yonder

Thanks for the article "Gardening Eden." The *Express* focuses too much on Oakland and Berkeley. There other communities to cover and, as you see, there are interesting stories out here.

Jim Richardson, Cherryland

[illegible] Seven Days

From Genesis, Chapter 41

And Pharoah sent for Joseph, and when he had shaved and changed his clothes he came before Pharoah. And Pharoah said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. Behold, in my dream I was standing on the banks of the Nile and seven cows, fat and sleek, came up out of the Nile and fed on reed grass. Then seven other cows, poor and gaunt, came up after them. And the thin and gaunt cows ate up the fat cows, but afterward they were still gaunt as at the beginning."

Then Joseph said to Pharoah: "The seven fat cows are seven years and the seven lean cows are seven years. There will come seven years of great plenty but after them there will arise seven years of great famine. The years of plenty will be forgotten because of the famine which will follow, for the famine will consume the land."

Would that our clueless city government, particularly of Ignacio De La Fuente, have remembered this simple Biblical tale before they made financial deals they couldn't sustain (or justify). But hey, that would be too much like right.

James J. Fenton, Oakland

[illegible] Feature 6/9

Don't Fear the Poor

While I applaud the recognition of refuse as valuable, the use of the term "poachers" to describe those who collect it is highly offensive.

There is a proper term for those who scavenge through what others discard or leave behind: gleaners. Gleaning has been the last resort for those who fall through the cracks in every culture since the dawn of time. In fact, Judeo-Christian morality demands respect for this practice in Leviticus:

"When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the alien."

The term "poacher" is a blatant move to criminalize the needy, akin to making sitting on sidewalks illegal.

Your article depicted gleaners as hostile and aggressive, and while there may be some anti-social gleaners (as there are antisocial co-workers), the vast majority of them are unobtrusive and polite. Citing the exceptions as a "growing trend" is fear mongering and divisive.

As our society comes to terms with dwindling resources, we must not turn on those who are even less fortunate.

Eli Brown, Oakland

Racist Racist Racist

What a racist rag! Or at least racist writers.

It used to be a joy reading the *East Bay Express*; writers were clearly not seeing the world through a "white" man's perspective. Not any more. After reading one letter to the editor in which the writer rants on and on about racism and its non-relationship to a liquor license, I read about the Johannes Mehserle trial getting "underway" (sic) after lawyers for the "white ex-BART cop" were successful in preventing blacks from being on the jury. How about that the prosecution "failed" to get the jury it wanted (such a racist. Gammon only sees in black-and-white). Then flip the page and Downs says the "once-black market" turned "white." These racist writers depict clearly the racism that is prevalent in so-called enlightened California. Californians are among the most racist people on the planet — "reverse" discrimination is another racist myth. Discrimination is discrimination — doesn't matter who is discriminating against whom. And to declare it as "reverse" shows unmitigated racial arrogance and ignorance.

Victoria Hudson, Oakland

Editor's Note

Victoria is right. We spelled "under way" wrong.

Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

Express Wins Eleven Awards

The *Express* won eleven awards, including five first place awards, in the East Bay Press Club's 2009 Excellence in Print Journalism Contest. The awards were announced Friday night, June 25, at the club's annual banquet in Oakland's Chinatown District.

Managing Editor Kathleen Wentz took home first place in the in-depth/investigative reporting category for "Yelp and the Business of Extortion 2.0" and "Yelp Extortion Allegations Stack Up." The judges remarked: "Ms. Wentz's investigation into Yelp and exposing the ugly side of their business practices is classic investigative journalism."

Associate Editor Robert Gammon won two first place awards — best columnist for his column Full Disclosure and best analysis for his story, "You're Not an Environmentalist If You're Also a NIMBY." Gammon also grabbed three second-place awards — business feature, "Who's Killing the Plug-In Hybrid," general news story, "Storm Water Grab," and in-depth/investigative reporting, "Monsanto Victims."

Music editor Rachel Swan won first place in the best profile category for "The Lost Runner." She also garnered a third-place award in the cultural affairs reporting category for her column Culture Spy. Arts editor Nate Seltenrich earned a second place award in the lifestyle feature category for "I Was Cougar Bait." He also took home third place in the criticism or reviewing category. Finally, *Express* editor Stephen Buel won first place in the page design category for "Suburbans — Best of the East Bay."

The *San Francisco Chronicle* won the most awards for any single publication, taking home 23 awards. It also won the most first place honors with ten. The *Contra Costa Times* won 10 awards, including six first places. The *San Francisco Business Times* won eight awards, and the *Oakland Tribune* garnered six, four of which were first places. In all, BANG-East Bay earned 27 awards. The annual East Bay Press Club awards are somewhat unique in that all print and online media organizations are judged against each other — there are no separate categories for circulation or for magazines. The only rule was that each entry must have appeared in a Bay Area newspaper, magazine, or online in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, or Solano counties during 2009. The judges for this year's contest were the Cleveland Press Club, the Los Angeles Press Club, and the Milwaukee Press Club.

Correction

In "Can Health Care Treat Crime?" our June 23 feature about the Healthy Oakland program, we misstated one element of Charles Copeland's parole. He was prohibited from traveling outside a fifty-mile radius, not a five-mile radius as we reported.

Also in our June 23 issue, we ran the incorrect music and DJ listings.

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Website
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IS JOHANNES MEHSERLE LYING?

Jurors in the ex-BART cop's murder trial must decide whether he was shedding crocodile tears when he testified that he shot Oscar Grant by mistake

By Robert Gammon

The **Johannes Mehserle** murder trial likely will come down to whether jurors believe the tears shed by the ex-**BART** cop on the stand last Friday were genuine or staged. As the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Oakland Tribune* reported. Was Mehserle telling the truth when he wept openly and told jurors "I didn't think I had my gun," at the moment he fatally shot Oscar Grant in the back? Or will jurors question why Mehserle never told fellow officers that he meant to pull out his Taser but mistakenly grabbed his gun instead. The case could go to the jury as early as this week.

Before Mehserle began his nearly day-long testimony, he testified that Grant and his friends were angry when he arrived at the Fruitvale BART station last year because of how they had been treated by fellow BART cop **Anthony Pirone**, the papers reported. Mehserle also attempted to distance himself from the hot-headed Pirone, saying he is the "opposite of him." Pirone, who had escalated the situation by manhandling Grant and screaming a racial slur at him, was fired by BART for his actions.

Also testifying last week was **Jackie Bryson**, a friend of Grant who was next to him when he was killed. Bryson said that Mehserle became frustrated just before the fatal shooting, said "Fuck this," and then stood up and shot Grant in the back, the *Chron* reported. Bryson was called to the stand by Mehserle's lawyer **Michael Rains**, who then attempted to portray Bryson as a liar who was trying to get Mehserle convicted of murder. However, Bryson also substantiated earlier testimony by Pirone, who said that Mehserle warned Grant prior to the fatal shooting that he was going to Tase him.

As the case comes to a close, BART, Oakland police, and Oakland city officials, meanwhile, are preparing to deal with riots should Mehserle be acquitted, the *Trib* and *San Jose Mercury News* report. Oakland police held mock riots at the Port of Oakland and set up a tip line for people to call if they're aware of planned rioting or vandalism. And Police Chief **Anthony Batts** and Mayor **Ron Dellums** issued a statement late last week that appeared to show that they're bracing for an acquittal. "We are dedicated to ensuring the safe expressions of emotions during this difficult time. We understand that the community is grieving and we are in this together. We will get through this together. We are asking the community to come together, look out for one another and stay safe. We will not tolerate destruction or violence."

Oakland to Lay Off 80 Cops

The **Oakland City Council** voted 5-3 last Thursday night to lay off eighty police officers as part of $31 million in budget cuts. However, council members said that they would reverse their layoff decision if the police union agreed to begin contributing to its pension plan like other city employee unions.

The layoff plan, along with millions in other budget-balancing measures, was proposed by City Councilman **Ignacio De La Fuente** and seconded by Vice Mayor **Jean Quan**, who is running for mayor this year. Voting with them were council President **Jane Brunner** and Councilwomen **Pat Kernighan** and **Nancy Nadel**.

Councilmembers **Desley Brooks**, **Rebecca Kaplan**, and **Larry Reid** voted "no," although it appeared that only Reid opposed the police layoffs. Brooks said she had problems with several cuts made to other city departments and revenue-enhancement proposals that she called "smoke and mirrors." Both she and Kaplan also said that the police union's refusal to contribute 9 percent to cops' pensions was "unsustainable."

However, Kaplan, who has launched an exploratory bid for mayor this year, did not specify why she decided to vote "no." The layoff plan is expected to put pressure on the police union to make pension concessions. The third major candidate in this year's mayor's race, ex-state Senator **Don Perata**, has made it clear that he's on the police union's side.

De La Fuente's proposal also called for laying off another 122 police officers if voters refuse in November to approve changes to Measure Y, the 2004 parcel tax initiative. Council members want to suspend the minimum police force requirements in the measure so that the city can lay off some cops and still collect the parcel tax. Next month, the council also will consider other tax measures for the November ballot, including another parcel tax and raising the city's utility and sales taxes.

Higher Bridge Tolls

Transportation officials are bracing for possible gridlock when new higher bridge tolls go into effect on July 1, the *Chron* reports. The problems could be particularly acute on the Bay Bridge because carpoolers will no longer cross for free and must pay a $2.50 toll using FasTrak — and because the bridge toll for everyone else will jump to $6 during commute hours.

Three-Dot Roundup

BART has quietly resurrected its plan for a $500 million tramway to **Oakland International Airport** and is attempting to cobble together funds. The airport connector was thought to be dead earlier this year when the Obama administration withdrew $70 million in federal funds because of BART's civil rights violations. ... **Bus Rapid Transit** will not be coming to Berkeley under environmental review plans approved by **AC Transit**. BRT is only being studied for Oakland and San Leandro. ... Alameda voters narrowly rejected **Measure E**, a parcel tax that would have benefitted public schools on the island. ... And **Yusuf Bey IV**, who is accused of ordering the murder of Oakland journalist **Chauncey Bailey**, is attempting to get his trial moved out of the Bay Area. ●

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ECO WATCH

OAKLAND'S NEW SEWER FEES PENALIZE WATER CONSERVATION

The burden of substantially higher sewer service charges would fall heaviest on the lightest water users.

By Nate Seltenrich

The City of Oakland is poised to raise sewer fees on homeowners by more than 50 percent over the next three years. The significantly higher rates come in response to a 2008 mandate by the **US Environmental Protection Agency** designed to end wet weather sewage discharges into the nation's waterways. But while Oakland environmentalists may be some of the first to support ending sewage spills into San Francisco Bay, there's an ironic twist to the city's proposal. Thanks to Oakland's flat-rate residential sewer fees, people who conserve water and use the least amount of it will have to pay the same elevated rates as those who routinely waste large amounts of H2O.

Currently, owners of single-family homes in Oakland pay a flat fee of $22.24 per month for sewer service. That number would climb to $25.80 in January, $29.93 in 2012, and $34.71 in 2013 — an increase over today's rate of $12.47, or 56 percent. The flat rates will continue to apply to all residences, regardless of the number of occupants or monthly water use. This means that the burden of the new higher rates will fall disproportionally on those who make the most effort to save water.

Some local water experts consider such a rate structure a disincentive to conserve. "We need to make sure that people who don't waste water are not overly adversely affected by rates and costs," said Oakland resident and water activist **Dave Nesmith**, who has worked with the **Sierra Club** and the Bay Area-based **California Environmental Water Caucus**. "There needs to be some sort of lifeline or lower flat rate for people who use less water." He argues that water and wastewater services should be expensive enough to force users to pay attention to conservation. However, proportionally high flat fees such as Oakland's, in conjunction with relatively cheap water from East Bay MUD, may encourage the opposite effect by shrinking the gap in water bills between light and heavy users.

Under the current fee structure, sewage charges compose a significant portion of the average water bill in Oakland. A single, water-conscious person using 30 gallons a day, or 900 a month, spends $11 to maintain an account, $11 for wastewater treatment, $22 for the city's sewer fee, and $3 on the water itself — making for a total of $47 per month.

By contrast, a family of four that is less conscious about saving water may average around 480 gallons a day. In one month, they'll spend $48 on water, $16 on wastewater treatment, and the same amounts on account and sewer fees as the single resident, totaling $97 per month. This means that a typical family using sixteen times as much water as a water-conscious individual pays only about twice as much for the privilege. With Oakland's proposed fee increases, the difference will become even more pronounced.

If all goes according to the City Council's plan, Oakland's sewer service charges will increase 16 percent across the board each year for three years, beginning in January 2011. Projected to bring in an additional $27 million by the end of the 2013 fiscal year, the new revenues will help the city adopt a sewer pipe maintenance schedule and invest in overdue capital improvements. The goal is to prevent rainwater intrusion into the sanitary sewer system via leaky, broken pipes and outdated drains, ultimately putting an end to wet-weather sewage overflows.

Last winter, **East Bay MUD** dumped 233 million gallons of partially treated sewage into the San Francisco Bay. On at least ten occasions, significant rainfall overwhelmed sewer systems from El Cerrito to Oakland and had to be diverted to one of East Bay MUD's three wet-weather facilities for emergency discharge. Oakland, with a 1,034-mile sewer system averaging eighty years of age, is the East Bay's worst offender.

Few people would argue that Oakland's crumbling sewer system is not in need of repair. But East Bay MUD board director **Andy Katz** agrees that flat rates can be unfair, particularly because heavy water users place additional burdens on aging pipes. "It's often more equitable to charge based on actual impact to the sewers," he said. "I wouldn't advocate for Oakland to interrupt their revenue stream, but in the future the city may discover that adding a variable rate structure would improve the incentive to conserve water."

However, **Ben Horenstein**, East Bay MUD's manager of environmental services, argues that it's fair to charge all residential users the same rate. He notes that heavy water use in residential settings can often be attributed to landscaping, in which the water evaporates or is absorbed into the ground without contributing to sewer flow levels.

Nonetheless, there still can be wide disparities in water usage among homeowners during wintertime, when few people water their gardens. And many cities, including Oakland, already base sewer rates on water usage when it comes to commercial and industrial properties. But of the seven municipalities with which East Bay MUD contracts for wastewater treatment, all but one employ a flat rate on homes.

Berkeley bases its sewage fees directly on water use. This means that water savers are rewarded with a cheaper rate, although the sewer fee maxes out at a certain point. Using the pricing examples from above, in Berkeley the single homeowner pays $6.22 a month and the family maxes out at $41.66.

Piedmont charges the highest sewer rates. It uses a tiered system — a series of five flat fees are based on parcel size, beginning at $38.67 and climbing up to $89.67 per month for parcels above 20,000 square feet. Emeryville's flat rate is the cheapest, at only $8. With the proposed increases, Oakland's will surpass Albany's to become second highest. Both the City of Alameda and the Stege Sanitary District — which comprises El Cerrito, Kensington, and the Richmond Annex — also are proposing rate increases next year to comply with EPA mandates, but their rates will remain considerably lower than Oakland's.

If Oakland's fee hike and sewer repair schedule is enacted, over the next three years the city will spend approximately $3 million on wastewater flow monitoring, $4.5 million on emergency repairs, and $18.5 million on operations and maintenance, including the hiring of at least 26 new employees. It also plans to issue a $45 million bond for capital improvements, which will be paid off using the new sewer service fee revenues.

The City of Oakland will accept written protests on the proposed increase in sewer service charges through July 20, when a public hearing is scheduled for City Hall. Written protests from a majority of land owners are required to block the increase. ●

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FULL DISCLOSURE

POLICE ROBOCALLS MAY HAVE BEEN ILLEGAL

Automated phone calls made last week by the Oakland police union targeting Vice Mayor Jean Quan appear to have violated state law

By Robert Gammon

When the Oakland police union decided to attack Vice Mayor **Jean Quan** last week in robocalls made to city residents, it raised the battle over cop layoffs and generous pensions to a new level. It also may have been illegal.

According to the **California Public Utilities Commission**, it is unlawful to bombard residents with automated robocalls that originate from within the state. Political campaigns often get around the law by hiring an out-of-state firm to conduct the robocalls, because California law does not apply to other states. However, the Oakland police union's robocalls appear to have originated in the East Bay, which, if true, means that cops violated state law in their attempt to blame Quan for the city's budget woes and the decision to lay off officers.

Several Oakland residents contacted Full Disclosure to say that when they received the calls on Tuesday, June 22, their caller ID showed them as having come from a 510 area code. The tips came in after the *Express* first broke the news about robocalls on its web site last week. One Oakland resident, **Ralph Cooke**, said the robocall he received came from 510-324-5566, a number that appears to have been subsequently disconnected. "I was pissed off," Cooke said of the robocall. "If it was a real person, I was going to tell them what I thought."

In an interview, **Dom Arotzarena**, president of the **Oakland Police Officers Association**, admitted that it was his voice on the robocalls, and that the police union commissioned them. However, he said he didn't know whether they were made from a California phone number. "I have no idea how they went down," he said.

State law allows an exception to the robocall ban — provided that a live voice comes on the phone and asks the recipient if he or she wants to listen to the automated message. The caller also must identify himself and say who paid for the call. But the Oakland police union's robocalls don't appear to have qualified for that exception because they contained no live caller and none of the other elements. As a result, the calls appear to have been unlawful. "I think it's very disappointing that police, of all people, would do an illegal robocall," Quan said.

Christopher Chow, a spokesman for the utilities commission, said if robocalls are found to have violated state law, then the person or group behind them could face a $500 fine per call. So if, for example, the police union placed 40,000 robocalls, it could be facing a $2 million fine. Typically, it's relatively easy for the utilities commission to check with AT&T to see where the robocalls came from, Chow said, a complaint filed with the utilities commission is usually enough to generate an investigation.

The robocalls also appear to have been political, since Quan is running for mayor this year against the police union's favored candidate, ex-state Senator **Don Perata**, who has taken up the union's cause in its debate with city leaders. In the robocalls, Arotzarena provided residents with Quan's council office phone number and urged people to call her and tell her not put Oakland "lives at risk" by laying off cops.

However, the robocalls do not mention Councilman **Ignacio De La Fuente**, even though he has been the most outspoken proponent of and the driving force behind the cop layoff plan. De La Fuente is Perata's close friend and longtime ally. Arotzarena declined to discuss the contents of the robocall. And **Larry Tramutola**, Perata's campaign manager, said the ex-senator had nothing to do with them.

It also should be noted that the robocall contained inaccurate information. It blames Quan for the city's budget problems, noting that she is the council's budget chair. However, most City Hall observers agree that the city's financial problems are primarily due to the recession and to generous employee wage, benefit, and pension packages approved by the council before the economic downturn.

The robocalls also alleged that Quan had refused to consider budget cuts other than police layoffs, when in fact, she and De La Fuente, along with council President **Jane Brunner** and Councilwoman **Pat Kernighan**, had proposed nearly $19 million budget-balancing measures, including cuts unrelated to the layoffs, prior to the robocalls going out.

Guards Attack Quan and Kaplan

A shadowy political group with ties to Perata and the state prison guard's union blanketed Oakland homes late last week with two glossy mailers, targeting Quan and Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan**, who is also likely running for mayor. The hit pieces also criticize Kernighan and Councilwoman **Desley Brooks** for the cops layoff plan.

In an interview, Larry Tramutola denied that Perata was involved with the mailer. However, the group behind the mailer, **Coalition for a Safer California**, is funded primarily by the **California Correctional Peace Officers' Association**, which gave it $100,000. As Full Disclosure reported last week, the prison guard's union has paid Perata at least $350,000 in the past seventeen months for work as a "campaign consultant," even though it has mounted no political campaigns. Perata has long had ties to the prison guard's union, and helped protect it from budget cuts while he was state Senate president pro tem.

The group behind the mailer also is co-run by **Paul Kinney**, a Sacramento political operative whose son, **Jason Kinney**, has been one of Perata's longtime spokesmen. The group's headquarters is Paul's Sacramento offices.

Other contributors to the group include longtime Perata supporters and campaign donors, including **Foster Interstate Media**, which is owned by the ex-senator's close friend **John Foster**. Foster gave the group $25,000. Perata friend **Ronald Dreisbach** donated $10,000 to the group. Oakland lobbyist and Perata supporter **Carlos Plazola** and his business partner **Laura Blair** donated $5,000. ●

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LEGALIZATION NATION

SAN JOSE RETHINKS ITS POT ORDINANCE

Plus medical marijuana as a weapon in divorces, Tax Cannabis 2010 kills the competition in Facebook friends and fund-raising, and the war on drugs is a war on sex.

By David Downs

Facing a vocal barrage from a well-educated cross-section of San Jose's 55,000 cannabis patients, the city's leaders kicked the can down the road to June 22, voting to postpone regulating dispensaries until August.

"This is the good part," said dispensary operator **Stephen DeAngelo** after the marathon six hour hearing. "It's another one of those days that makes me incredibly proud to be an American living in California in a place that's really about making local democracy work."

The council was considering permitting at random just ten of the city's seventy or so clubs, after charging each a $95,000 registration fee. Dispensaries would thus have to turn patient records over to the chief of police, possibly violating federal privacy laws. The community came out to bash each staff recommendation.

"Do not put a young woman's name on a list and give it to the police," begged patient advocate **Darlene Welch**. "She is 23 years old. She has no hope, then."

Oakland attorney **James Silva** said the proposed ordinance would violate the US Constitution, and that he was ready to go to court.

"The proposed ordinance is draconian, but some of the provisions ... would violate the Fifth Amendment," he said. "This is a community that wants to reach out to you and is hoping you'll reach back."

After an exasperated Mayor **Chuck Reed** brought the hearings to a head, the city council voted unanimously on Councilman **Pierluigi Oliverio**'s motion to push back any rule-making until August 3 and discuss more about what they want to do. The council ordered police to focus enforcement on dispensaries open within 500 feet of schools and residences. The council also moved toward putting a medical cannabis tax on the November ballot.

DeAngelo said the result was a more reasonable series of actions than those recommended by the city's attorney and chief of police.

"I think city staff has been responding to pressure by the city attorney to craft the most restrictive possible ordinance," he said. "Fortunately within the city council exists substantial support for protection of patient rights."

While 154 California cities have either passed temporary moratoriums on dispensaries or avoiding the topic, and 141 cities have bulldoggishly banned clubs, only 41 have passed regulations. San Jose's were set to be among the most expensive and high maintenance.

San Jose City Attorney **Rick Doyle** said state laws give the city enough wiggle room to be harsh. The ordinance is a work-in-progress based on limited information, he said, and the council could modify it today.

"A lot of this is experimental," Doyle said. "I'm usually in favor of local control but if there was ever a time for the state to step in and provide some rules, this is it."

Doyle said the city lacks basic details such as how many dispensaries it has. It also doesn't know how the chief of police would oversee the $95,000-a-ticket lottery. "I don't think we thought that far down the line," he said.

Citizens are not driving the process either. Neighborhood complaints have led to the closure of just one dispensary, Doyle said. The proposed rules are coming from the planning and the police department, who saw the huge fee would cover the costs of administering clubs.

"It's a huge cost," Doyle said. "The question to the council will be. Do they want to have full cost recovery or do they want to have a fee that they believe — I won't say is more reasonable — but something that is less than $95,000."

Seeds & Stems

Last week, the Associated Press detailed how medical cannabis can be used in mean divorces to gain full child custody. Medical marijuana patient group **Americans for Safe Access** said they've fielded dozens of calls, many from fathers losing access to their kids due to having a medical cannabis prescription ... California's Fall ballot measure to legalize and tax cannabis for over-21 users heads into a heated summer this week with a proud new milestone: more than 100,000 fans on social networking site **Facebook**. Conversely, the "**Public Safety First**" opposition campaign has six fans. **Tax Cannabis 2010** spokesperson **Dan Newman** said the online army is "translating into motivated volunteers, donors, increased voter turnout, and 100k people spreading the word to their friends and neighbors with a passion and intensity that our opponents' lonely six fans will never match. This passionate, motivated grassroots army will be able to counter millions of dollars in slick and deceitful TV ads from the opponents." Tax Cannabis 2010 — headquartered in Oakland — closed a $50,000-round of online fund-raising Wednesday, June 30, telling followers, "We all know that the press, politicos, and our opponents will use our fundraising numbers as a barometer to measure the grassroots strength of this campaign. So it's critical for us to show them that we are raising the resources we need to win in November." ... A Harvard economics professor endorsed legalization in *The National Review* where he also said that Tea Partiers must support ending the Drug War, which is Big Government at its worst. ... The war on drugs is waged by joyless prudes, according to a new study from the University of Pennsylvania. The journal ***Proceedings of the Royal Society B*** published the findings of researcher **Robert Kurzban**, who noted: "If you were to measure people's political ideology, religiosity and personality characteristics, you can predict to some degree how people feel about recreational drugs. But if instead, you just measure how people feel about casual sex, and ignore the abstract items, the predictions about people's views on drugs in fact become quite a bit better." ●

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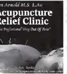
This column is culled from our blog of the same name.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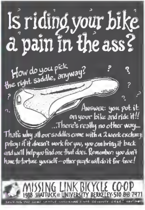

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A room at Off-Ramp Studios that officials took to be a marijuana grow room. Alex Weber

OAKLAND POLICE SEARCH WITHOUT WARRANTS

In a little-known program that critics say may be unconstitutional, cops join fire and building inspectors as they enter homes without a warrant and then arrest residents if they find anything illegal

By Alex Weber

On a gloomy recent morning in West Oakland, tenants at the **David Gray Building** — or **Off Ramp Studios** as everyone who lives there calls it — stood in the hallways outside their lofts. They gathered around their doors in nervous clusters and spoke in hushed tones, wondering aloud whether they should head to work or stay and observe while two Oakland police officers, two building services code enforcers, a fire inspector, and three property management representatives entered all of their units one by one.

Traditionally the entire procedure would have required a search warrant. But on this day the group of cops and city officials were operating under a little-known Oakland city program, called "SMART" — **Specialized Multi-Agency Response Team** — that some legal experts say may be unconstitutional. That's because they enter people's homes without consent or a warrant.

At the Off-Ramp Studios, they also entered one loft when no one was home. It was Unit 103. They knocked on the locked door and got no response. After about a minute of waiting, the building manager, who was carrying a tray of keys, opened the door, and everyone entered.

Inside were the remnants of a large multi-level grow operation, including what appeared to be psilocybin mushroom caps and potted marijuana plants that had been sawed off. There also was evidence of methamphetamine production, according to fire inspector **Vincent Crudele**, who called the unit a potential felony crime scene. The officers hauled away large Ziplock bags filled with evidence seized from the inspection, and Crudele ordered the unit to be completely cleaned out by property management within 48 hours.

A week prior to the search, Crudele showed up at the Off Ramp for a preliminary check in response to complaints from one tenant about an open party being planned by another tenant, said **Frank Flores**, director of development for Madison Park, the building's leasing agent. Crudele said he noticed the smell of marijuana emanating from one particular unit — 103 — and decided then to schedule the SMART inspection for one week later.

For Crudele, having police officers accompany city inspectors during a SMART inspection ensures security in potentially volatile situations. "It's a safety issue for us," he said. "We have limited policing capabilities. If part of the populace is doing something illegal — that creates a problem for me. They may not want to cooperate."

However, Northern California ACLU staff attorney **Michael Risher** questioned the legality of searching people's homes without a warrant or consent. He also argued that it's not all that burdensome to go down to the courthouse, swear-out an affidavit, and get a legitimate search warrant to look for illegal drugs or real safety hazards.

Risher said there are really only three ways for state agents to legally enter a private residence — with consent, with a warrant, or in an emergency. The SMART inspection is a warrantless process. And considering the fact that a week passed between Crudele's first sniff of the wafting marijuana and the actual inspection, this doesn't qualify as an emergency either, Risher said.

"Your home is your castle whether you rent a room in downtown Oakland or own a mansion in the hills," Risher said. "If you live in your apartment, it's your apartment. The landlord cannot give police access. There are statutory and constitutional problems with that."

Crudele, however, argued that the point of the search was community safety. "The ultimate goal of a SMART inspection is to bring a building into code for a better quality of living for everyone there," Crudele said. "It's not an attempt to impede any civil liberties or control anybody's life."

But was this truly a safety and code enforcement inspection or a drug bust in disguise? The answer appears to be a bit of both. After all, in addition to the incriminating drug evidence, the inspection revealed hundreds of extension cords, taped-open fuses, and a jerry-rigged greenhouse with a lot of fans and wood — a veritable fire-bomb waiting to happen, Crudele said. "It's like having hay bales in a room made out of 100-year-old wood with hot air running through and drying it out," he added.

But the legal murkiness of the inspections are problematic, Risher said. And from a legal-procedural standpoint, it appears that few within the City of Oakland are aware of what exactly a SMART inspection is and what justifies one. City Attorney's Office spokesman **Alex Katz** declined to comment for this story other than to confirm that the SMART inspections have been happening for years. Of the Off-Ramp search, Oakland Deputy Fire Chief **James Williams** said, "As far as I know, this is the first one I'm aware of generated by the fire department."

A few days prior to the search of the Off-Ramp Studios, Madison Park had taped a letter on the tenants' doors announcing the event. It said the Oakland Fire Marshall, city building services, and Oakland police had issued a notice of intent to inspect the entire building, each and every unit (in bold lettering), without exception.

Many of Off-Ramp's residents said it was common knowledge among the tenants and the management that there were marijuana grow operations going on in some units. "We're a little embarrassed about how far that tenant got," Flores of Madison Park said.

The residents, however, appeared to be united in their concern about the inspection. "They haven't made their intentions clear, which is disconcerting," said **Ryan Mock**. "Without informing people of their intentions, it comes across as a drug raid or just really bad PR." **Kevin Wandley**, who lives across the hall from Mock, agreed. "I don't have anything to hide," he said, "but I'm not comfortable with it."

The residents also expressed irritation with Madison Park and the company's unwillingness to stand up for tenants or to articulate exactly what the inspection was all about in the initial notice. "We told everyone we were coming in," Flores responded. "Regardless of what it said on the notice, we were inviting everyone with us. I think everybody was open to us coming in."

But Unit 103's tenant certainly was not. During a phone interview, the tenant, who agreed to talk for this story and to allow the *Express* to publish photos of his unit if he could remain anonymous, said he was upset about the fact that his loft was entered and searched without his consent and that he came home to a demolished unit. He claimed that Madison Park's crew destroyed roughly $3,000 worth of various concert memorabilia and housewares in the Crudele-ordered remediation process. "It's insane that any corporation can do this," he said.

As of late last week, he also was not certain whether he's being charged with anything or if there's a warrant out for his arrest. ●

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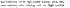

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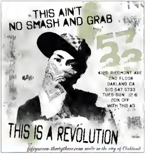
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7-ELEVEN

WORKERS AT BERKELEY BOWL BOOT THEIR UNION

In a surprising vote, employees at Berkeley's iconic grocery store ousted their union after management allegedly blamed poor benefits on union contract.

By Judith Scherr

Councilman **Max Anderson** calls Berkeley a union town. But that apparently no longer applies to **Berkeley Bowl**, a food emporium known for its fresh produce, organics, and ready-to-eat fare. Last week, employees of the beloved grocery store voted to oust the **United Food and Commercial Workers Local 5**, thereby slashing some 200 workers from the city's unionized workforce.

Losing the vote took union shop steward **James Livingston** by surprise. Standing among grim-faced colleagues on the sidewalk in front of the Oregon Street store on June 23, Livingston reported the 99 to 74 vote to the *Express*. "I don't know — I thought we had it — I just don't know," he said. But in a phone interview a few days later Livingston was decidedly upbeat. He said decertification wouldn't stop the organizing efforts. In fact, he said, workers are already making plans with the community and allies on the city council to create an informal "Berkeley Bowl watchdog" group that will be in place when a new union election is held next year. He also said that employees are talking about going to court to challenge 14 counts of alleged interference in the decertification campaign by Berkeley Bowl management.

But store management maintains that the decertification vote, overseen by the **National Labor Relations Board**, reflects employee opinion. "The company is pleased with the results of the election," store manager **David Craib** said in a brief in-store interview just minutes after the votes were tabulated. "Their voices have been heard. This is their decision. They've made it clear."

Pro-union Berkeley Bowl workers and Local 5 officials contend, however, that management pressured employees to vote for decertification. "They held captive-audience and one-on-one meetings, they were trashing the union," said Local 5 spokesman **Mike Henneberry**, alleging that the bowl hired a "union buster" to run the decertification campaign. "It was a management-driven anti-union campaign," added **Lajos Balazs**, another union steward at the Bowl.

Craib declined to respond to charges leveled at management. But some employees said management was clearly pleased with the workers' decision to de-unionize. Two employees who spoke anonymously for fear of retribution said that on Thursday, the day after the vote, managers toasted themselves with champagne in one of the store's offices.

In 2005, the United Food and Commercial Workers lost a vote to establish the union, but the National Labor Relations Board ruled that management had engaged in unfair labor practices and imposed the union. "That was a Bush appointed NLRB!" Councilman Anderson noted. The employees then approved a union contract.

The Berkeley Bowl. Ema Pine

Jason Lee, a produce department employee who led the decertification campaign, did not respond to numerous calls for comment. But Friday afternoon, two days after the election, one employee, who had voted to decertify the union, said he was willing to talk on the condition of anonymity. As he was taking a coffee and smoke break outside of the Bowl, he said he supported decertification because the workers didn't get what they paid for in union dues and fees, which amount to more than $50 every month. "I've got to pay rent," he said.

He said that under the union contract, workers have to wait three years to get health and dental benefits. "Where my dad works, he got benefits after six months," he said. "Why pay extra money for bad negotiations?" As for job protection, this worker said he doesn't need the union. "My job's safe," he said. "I know my rights."

Livingston didn't quibble about the benefit package being a bad deal, but blamed bowl management for intransigence during contract negotiations with the union — a contract that union employees approved at the time. Livingston also said that management treated workers better at the year-old non-unionized **Berkeley Bowl West**, fostering resentment among employees at the original store. "They gave [better benefits] to them at the new store," he said. Management dubbed the better benefits there the "Berkeley Bowl plan," telling workers that the union was responsible for the inadequate benefit package at the Oregon Street store, Livingston said. Management, he said, used the difference between the two benefit packages to convince workers that the union wasn't working for them.

Shop steward Balazs said the union contract expanded the pay scale, added paid holidays, and increased vacation time. He said the contract protected jobs, mandating "progressive discipline," where management must provide for opportunities to employees to improve before firing them. When the union contract expires, employees will revert to the at-will status they had before 2005. "Before, there were a lot of firings," Balazs said. He also said management used the difficult economy to turn the workers against the union. "They would say, 'Instead of paying union dues, your money will go into a 401(k) account,'" he said.

Community activist **Harry Brill**, who organized a rally of some thirty people at the store in favor of the union a few days before the decertification vote, said he feared a "bloodbath" retaliation against those who fought for the union. Local 5's Henneberry said the union will continue to stand up for the union activists. "We'll monitor how they are treated and make sure no one is singled out for discipline," he said. Brill said the decertification is likely part of a nationwide downward trend in union membership and a function of the worsening economy, where people fear if they lose a job, they won't find another one.

As it has many times in the past — such as in the **Berkeley Honda, Claremont Hotel**, and **UC Berkeley** labor disputes — the **Berkeley City Council** weighed in on the side of the union. It passed a resolution 8-0-1 on June __ with Councilman **Gordon Wozniak** abstaining, to "oppose Berkeley Bowl management's effort to reduce employee benefits and management's efforts to decertify the union." The strongly-worded resolution was co-sponsored by Councilmen Anderson, **Jesse Arreguin**, **Kriss Worthington**, and **Darryl Moore** and said, in part, "the Berkeley Bowl is engaging in classic anti-union activity including firing, threats and coercion, which mirror the worst union-busting tactics, in an effort to deny employees ability to have a fair voice in the conditions of their employment. ..." Anderson said he was concerned about what had been described to him as meetings held by management where employees were a "captive audience" to an anti-union message. "The role of the owners has always been to resist unionization," Anderson said.

The decertification vote doesn't just affect the 200 workers at the Oregon Street store, but also will impact the 200 or so employees at Berkeley Bowl West, union steward Livingston noted. Had the union won the decertification vote, it would have stepped up efforts to unionize the second store, he said. Most the other large grocery stores in Berkeley are union. They include **Andronico**'s three stores and **Safeway**. **Whole Foods Market** and the new Berkeley **Trader Joe**'s are nonunion.

Brill, who organized the pro-union rally at the bowl two days before the vote, said the union should have come to the community for support earlier. "They have to pursue a different strategy," Brill said, arguing that progressive movements don't advance when groups work in isolation. The union had asked Brill to organize the rally. He also helped organize the **East Bay Labor and Community Coalition**, which grew out of community support for the workers in a 2005 labor dispute at Berkeley Honda. Livingston said organizers plan to pursue that approach — building the union-community alliance.

And it appears — at least from a very small sampling of customers at the bowl — that such a grouping could have community support. On Friday, this newspaper talked to a half-dozen shoppers outside the Oregon Street store. Most expressed concern about the decertification, although none knew about it.

The five-year union contract at the bowl will remain in force until July 31. At that point, store employees will no longer be represented by the union. ●

Associate editor Robert Gammon contributed to this report.

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CULTURE SPY

WEST OAKLAND'S GOT THE BLUES, AGAIN

A new "Walk of Fame" commemorates blues history in West Oakland

By Rachel Swan

The doors at **Esther's Orbit Room** have padlocks on them. Iron grills block the windows, which are starting to gather dust. Above them hangs an iconic sign with purple lettering, and a picture of a rocket blasting off. For years Esther's was the last vestige of a metropolitan corridor that no longer exists. It used to be a breakfast club with a large proscenium stage, located at the current site of the **7th Street** post office. According to local blues guitarist **Ronnie Stewart** — who grew up down the way, on Adeline Street — it was Oakland's answer to the juke joints in Motor City or the French Quarter. **Al Green** made his first West Coast appearance at Esther's in the mid-Sixties, Stewart said. **B.B. King** played there. So did **T-Bone Walker**.

"This was the West Coast Harlem," said Stewart, idling outside the Orbit Room in his Cadillac DeVille on a recent Tuesday. "It had a **Bank of America**, a bowling alley, a boxing gym, stores, meat markets, a pharmacy, movie theaters, nightlife, ladies in red short dresses."

The Orbit Room shuttered a few months ago. Ninety-year-old **Esther Mabry** died on Memorial Day. The rumpled navy blue awning still hangs over her old venue, which sits across the street from its original home. It's right at the lip of the **I-880 freeway** entrance, under a swath of sky-level tracks where **BART** trains rumble by at all hours of the day.

Stewart reviles BART. "This is what destroyed 7th Street, right there," he said, pointing at the tracks through his car window. "They put BART up top because it was cheaper and quicker. It was West Oakland, and they weren't going to run into any opposition." In a more well-heeled neighborhood, residents might have had enough political clout to force BART to go underground. A portion of the old nightlife district could have been preserved.

Now 61, Stewart has made it his life's work to resurrect the West Oakland of his childhood. He grew up in a Queen Anne Victorian at 916 Adeline Street, learned to swim in the pool at **DeFremery Park**, and attended **Cole Elementary School**. Stewart taught himself how to play guitar during his junior year of high school and joined a blues band straight away. In 1985 he and fellow guitarist **Haskell Robert Saddler** (better known by his stage name **Cool Papa Saddler**) formed the **Bay Area Blues Society**. They wanted to promote a form of music whose main practitioners were older, under-resourced, and not incredibly press savvy. Saddler died sixteen years ago from complications associated with diabetes, but Stewart kept going it alone. Increasingly, he finds himself memorializing a scene he helped generate.

Things are looking up, though. With increasing development, new business infrastructure, and an ever-shifting population, Oakland has suddenly become fixated on its own history. In 2005, the city received a $1.9 million grant from the **Metropolitan Transportation Commission**, which it allocated to a series of streetscape projects in West Oakland. The list of improvements included tree planting, sidewalk widening, street repaving, a new bus shelter, a dancing light sculpture at BART, and a gateway at 7th and Union streets, project engineer **Mohammad Barati** said. The city also apportioned part of that sum for Stewart's gold star "Walk of Fame," to extol the old blues royalty of West Oakland. He'll place twenty brass plaques — each inscribed with the name of a famous blues musician — along the block of 7th Street that flanks BART. Stewart pulled a blueprint for the B.B. King star from the back seat of his Cadillac. Designed by local illustrator **James Gayles**, it featured a large musical note with a tiny oak tree at the bottom. "The music they played on 7th Street," said Stewart, reading a slogan that arched over the logo and bearing.

Stewart said that he and Saddler began lobbying for the Walk of Fame stars back in 1990. They wanted to install the first star at Esther's, which was a fully operating supper club at the time. In the end, they had to install the first star at BART, since MTC supplied the seed money. That irked Stewart to no end. "It would have killed Ms. Esther, had she found out," Stewart said, insisting that Mabry spent the last few years of her life sabotaging the Walk of Fame. "Which is really — excuse my French — F'd up."

Stewart came up in an era when musicians got suited and booted, and he still tries to have a signature look. On Tuesday he wore a long-sleeve button-down shirt and a musical-note tie. His cap bore the insignia for the **USS Arizona**. A large coffee cup lay on the floor of his Cadillac. "I only drink chocolate and all that," he said. "I don't like coffee." Stewart rubbed his eyes blearily and gazed back up at the BART tram. He still runs on a musician's schedule, rehearsing in the afternoons and gigging most nights. But he doesn't have the luxury of sleeping in. Stewart says he wakes up by 6:30 most days. He's currently running Bay Area Blues Society as a band, a business, and a preservationist organization. He takes care of all the details himself.

At this point, the work is starting to pay off. In a few weeks, 7th Street will see its first stars imprinted in the sidewalk. The area has evolved dramatically since Stewart's childhood. The army base is closed. The bars are gone; the old Victorians sit cheek by jowl with new condo developments. Down the street from Esther's sit a bike shop and a hippie cafe. Walk a little further and you'll find the **Mandela Foods Cooperative**, the **Upper Kutz Barbershop**, a gridded apartment high rise, **Subway Sandwiches**, the **Acorn** housing projects, and **The Crucible** metal foundry. The streets are wide and lined with tender, spindly trees. It's a far cry from the entertainment district that Stewart remembers, but it's starting to look like a thriving neighborhood once again.

Stewart's childhood house is gone, but there's still an oak tree out front that's been there since the 1920s, he said. Some things seem impervious to change. ●

Show Info

Bay Area Blues Society presents its Home Grown Blues Series July 8-August 26 in Oakland City Hall Plaza (1 Frank Ogawa Plaza). BayAreaBluesSociety.net

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Fijian? In Hayward?

An oft-overlooked East Bay community enjoys two days in the sun

Oakland has Fruitvale, Chinatown, and Koreatown. San Francisco is home to a head-spinning array of ethnic neighborhoods and groups. But there are immigrant communities tucked away in all corners of the Bay Area. Hayward, for one, is home to a thriving — and growing — Fijian population, according to **Davendra Kumar**, president of the **Fiji American National Association**, based in Union City. Of the 70,000 to 80,000 Fijians living in the United States, some 30,000 have settled in the Bay Area, largely in South San Francisco and, increasingly, Hayward, Newark, Fremont, San Leandro, and surrounding cities. As a result, the region has become the de-facto center of gravity for Fijian immigrants to the United States. It's a close-knit and proud community, said Kumar, and this weekend brings one of its biggest events: the annual **Fiji Festival USA**, which takes place Saturday and Sunday, July 3 and 4, on the grounds of **Cal State East Bay** (25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward). Now in its ninth year, the festival — one of the largest of its kind outside of Fiji — has come to be a much loved and well-attended cultural event, drawing thousands of Fijians and other Pacific Islanders from all over California and as far away as Canada.

2008's Fiji Festival USA

"I think it means a lot to the community to come together under one spot, our umbrella," said **Fakzal Ali**, a member of the festival's organizing committee. "It brings us together and gives us an opportunity to enjoy good food and culture, entertainment, sports, share knowledge, meet new friends."

Planning for this year's event began in December and involved a small army of volunteers and sponsors. All the effort seems to have paid off, as the festival is growing in scale and scope. Over the course of three days, there will be a car show, a baby beauty contest, dance and other cultural shows, various recreational and spectator sporting events, a health fair, a parade, live DJs, dozens of vendors selling traditional crafts and food, and the 2010 Miss Fiji contest. For the first time, the event will be held in conjunction with the **Fiji Muslim Sports Association's World Cup**, which draws soccer players and fans from throughout the Fijian diaspora. It's all designed to showcase the island nation's rich cultural traditions for Fijians and non-Fijians alike. "Everyone is welcome," said Kumar. "It's pretty neat." Tickets are $4 per day. 510-780-9699 or FijiFestival.com.

— *Ellen Cushing*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly.pr/fijifestival

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

4th of July at Berkeley Marina With live entertainment starting at noon, plus the kids' adventure playground, vendor booths, and food. Sun., July 4, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. free. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740, CityofBerkeley.info/Marina/

4th of July at [illegible] Park With old-fashioned games and live music. Sun., July 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. free. Meek Park, 240 Hampton Rd., Hayward.

4th of July Celebration and Fireworks Sun., July 4, 7-9:30 p.m. free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St., Oakland. JackLondonSquare.com.

4th of July Parade and Race Sun., July 4, 8:05 a.m. free. Starts at Park St. and Lincoln Ave., Alameda.

Alameda County Fair With horse racing, rides, concerts, [illegible] a circus, [illegible] and more. Special theme days include Fiesta Hispana, June 26-27, Celebrate America weekend, July 2-4, Fireworks night Fireworks July 2 at 9:30, Combo Concert, July 5, and Spice of India weekend July 10-11. Mondays, Wednesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m. Continues through July 11. [illegible] $4-$10; Parking $8-$10; Unlimited ride wristband $20-$28. Alameda County Fairgrounds, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton. 925-426-7600, AlamedaCountyFair.com.

[illegible] Parade & Celebration with City Fireworks Sun., July 4, free. Main Street Plaza, Main St., Martinez.

[illegible] Fourth Sale Twenty-five percent off everything in the warehouse, plus refreshments. Fri., July 2, 4-11 p.m. Free. AK Press Warehouse, 674-A 23rd St., Oakland. 510-208-1700.

Independence Day Party With live entertainment, interactive activities, and tours of the aircraft carrier. Sun., July 4, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., $10-$25. USS Hornet Museum, 707 W. Hornet Ave., Alameda. 510-521-8448.

Red, White and Boom! Picnic and Fireworks With a kids' activity area open from 1 pm-5:30 pm, music and [illegible] from 5:30 pm-9:30 pm, and fireworks at 9:37 pm. Sun., July 4, 1-10 pm. Free; Parking $10. San Ramon Central Park, 12501 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-2500, Ci.San-Ramon.Ca.Us.

Third of July Celebration Fireworks [illegible] with family entertainment. Sat., July 3, 8:30-11 p.m. free. Marina Bay Parks, Marina Bay Pkwy., Richmond. 510-237-1483, [illegible]

KIDS

Adopt-a-Rabbit Day @ the East Bay SPCA Adopt a rabbit, or bring yours in for a free nail trim. Sat., July 3, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. East Bay SPCA, 4651 Gleason Dr., Dublin. 925-479-9670.

Art Classes for Children with Disabilities Ages 6-16 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Maximum five students per class. Call to reserve. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-noon. $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290, NIADArt.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, children's theater shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m. $8. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259, Fairyland.org.

Enter My World A creativity workshop for kids grades 2-12. Please preregister. Ongoing, start anytime. Fridays, 4:15-6 p.m., $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

Early Literacy Night Stories, crafts, and tips for young readers. First Monday of every month, 5:30-6:30 p.m. free. Oakland Public Library Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-615-5728, OaklandLibrary.org.

El Cerrito Recreation Department Go to ElCerrito.org/recreation for information on the city's parks, preschool, senior center, youth services, [illegible] Project REACH, and more. Daily.

[illegible] This [illegible] Inc. program is for girls who [illegible] community service [illegible] graduate [illegible]. Participants are [illegible] to leadership [illegible] and their [illegible] Center. [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. [illegible] Library [illegible]

[illegible]

PICKS

Mural Project Fund-raiser

Community art and sustainable food have found common ground in North Berkeley, where a group of artists and organizers are creating a massive mural celebrating sustainable agriculture and the slow food movement on the south-facing wall of **Virginia Bakery** (1690 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). The mural, titled **"Growing Connections,"** was developed with the help of students from **King Middle School**, and organizers invite anyone from the community to come by and help paint every Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Although work is already well underway, organizers say they're thousands of dollars shy of what they need to finish the painting. To that end, a fund-raiser is planned for 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 1, at **ACCI Gallery** (1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley), featuring a speaker, silent auction, and raffle. GrowingConnectionsMural.com — *Ellen Cushing*

Interdependence Celebration

It wouldn't be Independence Day in Berkeley without a few counter-celebrations. Among [illegible] is **Tikkun** magazine's **Interdependence Day Celebration**, which promises to turn the rah-rah patriotism of Sunday, July 4, on its head by celebrating our dependence on each other and the environment, as well as individual and collective independence from corporate power, the military industrial complex, and the like. The event at **Strawberry Creek Park** (1260 Allston Way, Berkeley) also features a vegetarian potluck followed by [illegible] and singing; bring songs, stories, food, and drinks to share. Free, 1-4 p.m. 510-644-1200. — *E.C.*

Hot Dog Eating Contest

How Independence Day got [illegible] for an author [illegible]. Come to think of it, a person in that field would no doubt have a field day at the **Alameda County Fair** (4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton). The three-week festival peaks on Sunday, July 4, when ten teams of four eaters will chow down on hot dogs to determine the county's most famished or gluttonous quartet. The showdown begins at high noon at the festival square, and offers prizes to the winners. Viewers, meanwhile, can always walk away and grab a corndog without the pressure of competition. $4-$10. AlamedaCountyFair.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

A section of the "Growing Connections" mural.

and meet an animal. [illegible] Saturdays, 11:45 a.m. [illegible] Golf Links Rd., Oakland, 510-632-9525. [illegible]

[illegible] Sports Schedule [illegible] 3:30-5:30 p.m. [illegible] Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore, 925-373-5700.

LGBT

Oakland Bisexual Support Group [illegible] Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Dress-Up Wednesdays A social gathering where transgender girls, [illegible] ers, and [illegible] are welcome. [illegible]

[illegible] Oakland, [illegible] p.m. $15-20 donation requested. [illegible] 45870 Warm Springs Blvd. #7, Fremont, 510-656-4738. [illegible]

East Bay Front Runners Join the LGBT group for noncompetitive runs and walks followed by brunch at a local restaurant, and the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9:10 a.m. Free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. [illegible]

Express 20s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their twenties. Thursdays, 8-10 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

HIV+ Gay Men's Support Group A supportive environment for gay men facing a diagnosis of HIV. Mondays, 6:30-8 p.m. Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County, 3024 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-692-0090. RainbowCC.org.

HIV Women's Therapy Group [illegible] Mondays, [illegible] p.m., 510-545 sliding scale. 510-548-8283 ext. 246. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Lesbians at Solar Peer Group Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. [illegible] Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

[illegible] Group Support group for LGBT youth. [illegible] Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Trip the Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn and participate in two-step, [illegible] West Coast swing, [illegible] and line dances. First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m. [illegible] Lake Merritt [illegible] Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-594-2176. LakeMerrittDanceCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

4th of July Pancake Breakfast @ [illegible] All-you-can-eat [illegible] Sun., July 4

8-11 a.m. $8.50 general; $3.50 [illegible] under $5 free. [illegible] Center, 295 Gregory Ln., [illegible] 925-798-8788.

[illegible]

[illegible] Berkeley Group All levels welcome. Sat., July 3, 7 p.m. Free. Kensington [illegible] Library, [illegible] Arlington Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-3043.

[illegible]

Kensington Library Knitting Club The [illegible] on a monthly basis. First Monday of every month, 1 p.m. Kensington [illegible] Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington, 510-524-3043.

[illegible]

The Living Philosophers [illegible]

[illegible]

Weekly Sing-Alongs Led by Dale Allen

More Listings Online

Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

[illegible] Free. [illegible] Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., [illegible]

SPORTS & OUTDOORS—PARTICIPATORY

[illegible]

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland A's vs. New York Yankees July 5, 1:05 p.m. [illegible] 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland [illegible]

Oakland A's vs. New York Yankees July 6, 7:05 p.m. [illegible] 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland [illegible]

World Cup [illegible] [illegible]

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, CA, [illegible] Deadline is 14 days prior to event date.

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EXPRESS WINS 11 Journalism Awards!

The *Express* won eleven awards, including five first-place awards, in the East Bay Press Club's 2009 Excellence in Print Journalism Contest last week.

Express Managing Editor Kathleen Wentz took home first place in the in-depth/investigative reporting category for "Yelp and the Business of Extortion 2.0" and "Yelp Extortion Allegations Stack Up."

Associate Editor Robert Gammon won two first place awards — best columnist for his column Full Disclosure and best analysis for his story "You're Not an Environmentalist If You're Also a NIMBY." Gammon also grabbed three second-place awards — business feature, "Who's Killing the Plug-In Hybrid," general news story, "Sierra Water Grab," and in-depth/investigative reporting, "Monica's Victims."

Music Editor Rachel Swan won first place in the best profile category for "The Lost Runner." She also garnered a third place award in the cultural affairs reporting category for her column Culture Spy.

Arts Editor Nate Seltenrich earned a second-place award in the lifestyle feature category for "I Was Cougar Bait." He also took home third place in the criticism or reviewing category.

Express Editor Stephen Buel won first place in the page design category for "Subcultures — Best of the East Bay."

The judges for this year's contest were the Cleveland Press Club, the Los Angeles Press Club, and the Milwaukee Press Club.

EAST BAY EXPRESS

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

Making Good

Local artists donate art for education's sake

During the 1950s, the German educator **Kurt Hahn**, seeking to promote cultural exchange and understanding among young international students, founded the **United World Colleges**. Today, thirteen schools on five continents continue that still-needed work. UWCers, according to honorary president **Nelson Mandela** in a statement on the organization's web site, "embrace the entire world across all divides of race, history, culture, wealth, religion, economic status, and political belief. They are unique and they are conscious of their responsibilities." While not generally thought of as financial angels, artists are unique, too, and conscious, at least in the case of this exhibition that will benefit UWC's scholarship fund.

Stella Cheng

Patricia Gillespie's "Wonder Woman."

Organized by painter **Martin Webb**, who is married to an alumna, ***Transformative Experience*** features eighteen notable local artists: sculptors **Nick Dong**, **Dave Higgins**, **Evan Holm**, and **Lee Tollefsrud**; mixed-media artists **Patricia Gillespie**, **Susie Grant**, **Gale Hart**, **Betrell Smith**, and **Martin Webb**; 2D artists **John Yoyogi Fortes**, **Terry Furry**, **Christine Reed**, **Catherine Richardson**, **Favianna Rodriguez**, **Julianne Wallace Sterling**, and **Allison Tharp**; and photographers **Lacey Haslam** and **Jennifer Holmes**.

Their 65 pieces, nicely installed, cover the gamut of styles. Some highlights: Dong's hanging forms resembling flasks covered with mosaic-like mirror fragments; Fortes' portrait of an anonymous lady, "Assumohnn"; Furry's meticulously rendered undershirt drawings on brown paper; Gillespie's beautifully drawn, upholstered paintings, "Wonder Woman" and "Soda Not Tonic"; Grant's pinned collage, "Geometric Solids"; Hart's poignantly titled recycled steel furniture, "No Table" and "EN Table"; Haslam's Photoshopped tintype landscapes, "Man on Beach" and "Western Baby"; Higgins' humorously psychological "Bluebird in my Soul"; and Holm's assemblages that transform unusual materials — silk flowers, grass, wheels, light bulbs, and radio tubes — into oddly beautiful absurd artifacts.

Also of note are Holmes' surreal portrait photo "Crepe Paper Magnolia"; Reed's abstract field of shimmering dots, "Grove"; Richardson's semi-abstract "Deer Evolution" series; Rodriguez's pointillist/psychedelic screenprint "Eat Well, You Are Made of Food"; Smith's richly colored mixed-media graffiti-style painting on wood "Working With a Woman"; Sterling's realist depiction of a pensive woman, "Life: Real and Imagined"; Tharp's mosaic comment on 1950s women's floral bathing caps, "Lazy Summer"; Tollefsrud's suspended wooden sculptures, "Floating Notes" and "A Simple Plan," revisiting Bauhaus geometric abstraction with recycled materials; and Webb's assemblage painting "Gold Miner," with its silhouetted figure surrounded by rich texture and color. *Transformative Experience* runs through July 4 at **Art@theOakBook** (423 Water St., Oakland). Call or check web site for hours: 510-684-4492 or QuicksandStudio.com.

— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, type: ebx.by/makinggood

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, I really want you to like me: Textile installations by Kat [illegible] Ward, with video and performance. Opening reception July 2 from 8 p.m.-10 p.m. Starting July 4: Thursdays, 4-8 p.m., Fridays, 4-8 p.m., Saturdays, Sundays, 2-6 p.m. Continues through July 14. 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

[illegible] Street Gallery, Army of Several by Various Artists: With work by [illegible], Elliot Evans, Ronnie Carter, and others. Opening reception Jul. 3, 2 p.m.-8 p.m. Starting July 3: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. Continues through July 31. Free. **Army of Buttons by Buttons Artists: Opening Reception** Sat., July 3, 2 p.m. Free. 510 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-834-6814. 510StreetGallery.com.

ADD Gallery, Block, Plate, Street: With work by Angie Garbedian, Katie Gilmartin, and Mark McNeil. Mondays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through July 3. 3012 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2920. ADDGallery.com.

Studio Cafe, First Friday: [illegible] that will be signing copies of his new photo journal "Head Face" as well as copies of his sketchbook. With a DJ and refreshments. Fri., July 2, 6-10 p.m. Free. 6324 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8380. [illegible].com.

African American Art and Culture Complex, Past Forward: African Spirituality in Contemporary Black Art: Exhibit curated by [illegible], featuring work by Duane Deterville, [illegible], Wilbe L. Little, [illegible], Karen Seneferu, and Malik Seneferu. Through Aug. 19. Sargent Johnson Gallery, San Francisco, 415-922-2049. AAACC.org.

Albany Arts Gallery, Silk Paintings by [illegible]: Tuesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Continues through July 28. 1251 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-5558.

Albany Community Center, Child's Play: Berkeley artist Barbara Munroe exhibits her "Childhood" series of oil paintings, inspired by snapshots of her son and other children. Through July 4. 1249 Marin Ave., Albany, 510-524-9283.

Artisan Wine Lounge & Cafe, [illegible] and Joel Summerhill: Drawings and paintings by two local artists. Tuesdays-Sundays, 3:30 [illegible] p.m. Continues through Aug. 14. 1633 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek.

Autobody Fine Art, Medium Rare: paintings and mixed-media work by Joseph Cass and Tony Hoang. Opening reception June 11 [illegible] 7 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Aug. 8. Free. 1507 Park Street, Alameda.

Bocanova, Paintings by [illegible]: through Sept. 15. 55 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-1233. Bocanova.com.

Castle in the Air, Inclement Weather: The Paintings of [illegible]: Opening reception June 3, 6 p.m.-8 p.m. Mondays-Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through July 31. Free. 1805 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Colusa Street Kensington First Friday Art Walk: With [illegible] Photography, White Magnolia Tea Co. Studio, Catherine Harmon Pottery Gallery, and others. Fri., July 2, 6-9 p.m. Free. Colusa Ave. @ the Arlington, Kensington.

The Compound Gallery, Junk Pirate: With found art by Pete Gilbert. Reception July 3, 1 p.m.-10 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through July 4. 1167 65th Street, Oakland.

Cornelia Bell's Black Bottom Gallery, First Friday Series: The Cornelia Bell Gallery's First Friday Series features work by [illegible]. First Friday of every month, 6 p.m. 1030 Pine St., Oakland, 510-451-4663.

[illegible] Engine Studio & Gallery, All Around Us: Exhibit of painting and music. Opening reception July 23, 7 p.m.-11 p.m. Starting July 2: Saturdays, Sundays, 2-6 p.m. Continues through July 31. Free. 480 [illegible], Oakland, 510-835-[illegible]. [illegible]Engine.org.

Float Studio, Surrender: With digital paintings by [illegible] Jones & light sculptures by [illegible]. Mondays-Sundays, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Continues through July 31. Free. 1091 Calcot Pl., Oakland, 510-535-1702. TheFloatCenter.com.

Guerilla Cafe, Bay Area Funk and Soul Legends on Display: Paintings of and inspired by Bay Area Soul artists. Wednes-

PICKS

In the Garden

Natalie Cartwright's fantasy porcelain sculptures combine folklore and natural history to odd effect. They're fey and occasionally creepy. The statuettes suggest whimsical **Beatrix Potter** characters gone feral, while the figure groups that are mounted on oval plaques suggest taxidermy mounts, dissection trays, and life-cycle diagrams. In "Friend or Foe," a bird and snail confront two alarming interlopers. In "To Be in Clover (a personal history of bunny)" a Wookiee/bear, a ghost/skull, a jackalope, a llama/unicorn, a duckbilled humanoid turtle and a garden-variety gnome are patrolled by cat-like clover trefoils (one blessed with four leaves). And in "Daisy Chain" a fox, a butterfly, a weasel, a snake, and a squirrel romp around a swaddled baby animal that may remind you of the fateful kid in *Eraserhead*. ***In the Garden*** runs with ***Return to Romanticism*** jewelry by **Laura Cooney** and Cartwright's re-enacted ***Alice in Wonderland*** photos, through July 10 at **Vessel Gallery** (471 25th St., Oakland) 510-893-8800 or VesselGallery.com — *DeWitt Cheng*

Natalie Cartwright's "To Be in Clover (a personal history of bunny)"

DeWitt Cheng

Spacetime

Alexandra Chevez's colorful oil paintings and wood/paper/cardboard sculptures depict simplified architectural forms reminiscent of geometric solids (or Monopoly hotels) set on loosely painted ground planes, plain and striated, decorated by polygonal shadows and property lines. The tipped houses connote chaos and mayhem, but the mood is playful, with "the paintings [seeming] to have migrated from the wall to the pedestal ... taking on mass," to quote the press release, "while [the] sculptures have [apparently] crept up the wall," flattened for better adhesion. Such 2D/3D optical trickery links these hybrid works to Analytical Cubism, although Sixties minimalism and Seventies New Image painting (when houses and horses crept into abstraction) also play a part. If the title alludes to the spacetime continuum, the perspectival houses and shadows suggest, perhaps, home plates. ***Spacetime*** runs through July 3 at **Rowan Morrison Gallery** (330 40th St., Oakland). 510-384-3344 or RowanMorrison.com — *DC*

days-Fridays, 7 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturdays, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Sundays, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Mondays, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Continues through Aug. 29. Free. 1820 Museum Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-2233.

Johansson Projects: 8 Only... Sculpture by Piane Owen. Through July 17. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

John F. Kennedy University Arts and Consciousness Gallery: Arts & Consciousness Graduate Exhibition 2010 With work by degree candidates in the university's Masters of Fine Arts, Studio of Art in Transformative Arts, and Studio of Fine Arts programs. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through July 30. 2956 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-649-0499. JFKU.edu/gallery.

Kala Gallery and Art Institute: Groundswell Works by Elliott Anderson, Mira Fryman, Nathan Bolmen, Suzanne Husky, Jess Marguiles-Kiernan, Shannon Rubenstein, Emily Payne, and more. Through July 3. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

Knie Walljasper Gallery: Women Contemporary Art Exhibition, Focus 2010 With work by Melanie Kroy, Steffany Benson, Claire Lodaen, and more. Opening reception June 26 from 5 pm-8 pm. through Aug. 1. 405 Hartz Ave., Danville.

Local 123 Gallery: Between Tides and Stone First Friday opening of landscape photographs by Janet Delaney. Fri., July 2, 7-10 p.m. Free. 2049 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. Local123Gallery.com.

Mercury 20 Gallery: Mercury Rising With work by Dave Meeker, Peter Honig, Kathleen King, and others. Opening reception July 2, 6 pm-9 pm. Starting July 1. Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through July 31. 25 25th St., Oakland. 510-464-1795. MercuryTwenty.com.

Ohlone Hyde Art Gallery: The Language of Clay With selected clay works from members of Potters Guild. Through July 8. 123 Washington Blvd., Fremont. 510-791-4357. Fremont.gov/recreation/ohlonehydeartgallery.

Pro Arts Gallery: Oakland Art Murmur Pro Arts and Womens its gallery hours in conjunction with Oakland Art Murmur. First Friday of every month. 6-9 p.m. Free. 150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. 510-763-4361. proartsgallery.org.

Pueblo Nuevo Gallery: Culturas de Colores y Esperanzas/Cultures of Colors & Hopes. With works by the Chilean graphic artist. Sundays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through July 4. 1828 San Pablo Ave., #1, Berkeley. PuebloNuevoGallery.com.

Royal Nonesuch Gallery: Alula Editions with Jesse Engel Prints of textile work. With an audience-participatory art-making party July 2; workshop July 17, noon-3 pm, and closing reception July 24, noon-5 pm. Fri., July 2, 7-10 p.m., Sat., July 3, 1-6 p.m. Free. 4231 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Swarm Gallery: Stone Lanes and Wonder With paintings by Anne Subercaseaux, and Mel Travis; drawings by Patricia Thomas; photographs by Chris Nickel; and objects and an installation by Tara Suggs. Opening reception July 2, 6 pm-9 pm. Starting July 2. Thursdays-Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 14. 4770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Studio Mercury: Arabesque With work by Sadaat, Kyle Milligan, Ostiz Meliet, and Parnaz Shaahsavari. Reception July 10, 3 pm-8 pm. Starting July 2. Fri., July 2, 6-9 p.m. Saturdays, 12-6 p.m. Continues through Aug. 13. Free. 385 26th St., Oakland.

The Telegraph Gallery: Wonder Palat by Oakland group show Featuring Thalian Whee, Kyla Dahman, Matt Hebbian and many more with a potluck BBQ and live musical performances. Sun., July 8, 1-6 p.m. Free. 798 30th St., Oakland. MoArtSpace.com.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum: Index and Archive: Himalayan Solo exhibition of paintings. Through Aug. 29. **Enlightenment: Cultures and Treasures from the Land of Fumo** Exhibit featuring new acquisitions in the museum's collection of Buddhist and Tibetan art, through Aug. 1. **Work Fashion: MATRIX** Commissioned work. Through Nov. 30, 2010. 2625 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology: From the Maker's Hand From the permanent collection, a selection of works from China, Egypt, and Peru, plus items from Africa, North America, and the Mediterranean. Daily. **Native California Cultures** This "visible storage" exhibition comprises some 500 objects from the museum's collections of native California. Daily. Kroeber Hall, Berkeley. 510-643-7648. HearstMuseum.berkeley.edu.

Museum of Mosaic Art: Wonder Art: Pet Portraiture A celebration of pets in mosaic. Daily. **California Mosaic Artists: Celebrating Diversity through Culture** An ongoing group show. Daily. 300 Chapman St., Oakland. 510-431-5009. MuseumofMosaicArt.com.

Lawrence Hall of Science: Science Moolah Interactive exhibit on thrift-saving and the physics of roller coasters, through Jan. 2, 2011. **Science on a Sphere (SOS)** New permanent exhibit featured an animated globe. Watch hurricanes form, tsunamis sweep across the oceans, and city lights glow around the planet. Daily. $8-$11. Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-642-5133. LawrenceHallofScience.org.

Judah L. Magnes Museum: Projections Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of archival, documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **Memory Lab** Interactive installation allows visitors to create digital family albums and exhibitions of their own Judaica, photographs, and heirlooms. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum: Vintage Pinball Brains With 15 machines, and 20 backglass heads from Larry Zartarian's collection plus games representing early pinballs from the Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Collection, Dan Miller and Michael Schiess. Berkeley. Thursdays, Sundays, 2-8 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 2 p.m.-midnight. $15, under 12 $7.50. **Pinball Museum: "Pinball Style: Indies and design"** Exhibition and commentary on pinball art from the 1940s to present. Show runs through August 1. Fri., July 2, 6-9 p.m. $15 general, $7.50 child. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6959. PacificPinball.org. ■

@Berkeley Public Library

Summer Event Series Begins at Berkeley Public Library's North Branch
1170 The Alameda at Hopkins

In this free Food Focused event series, patrons are encouraged to bring a potluck item to share. First in the series

July 1—Nishanga Bliss, local and sustainable food advocate will give a cooking demonstration of herb pestos & fresh summer marinades

For more info on the *Summer Series*, call 510-981-6250 or go to http://berkeleypubliclibrary.org/weblog/files/FNAL710.pdf

For more information please call (510) 981-6100 or visit www.berkeleypubliclibrary.org

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EAST BAY EXPRESS

BLUES SOCIETY & THE CITY OF HAYWARD
HAYWARD/RUSSELL CITY REUNION
RUSSELL CITY COUNTRY CLUB

July 10 thru 11, 2010

11:00 am to 7:00 pm at Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 "B" St.

Shakey Jake, Terry "Big T" Williams, Zydeflyer, Little Jimmy Reed, Big Daddy Cane, Big Time Sarah, Sugar Pie DeSanto, Ron Thompson, Russell City Memorial Blues Band, Blues Harp Explosion featuring: Little Jimmy Reed, Daddy Arroyo, Lee McGroarty and Wingnut Adams.

Enjoy Studio Week July 5th thru July 11th

Ticket Info

$15 in advance per day / $20 at the door per day / $25 2-day in advance

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brownpapertickets.com / The Bistro on B & Mission St. outs / The Cobbler on Foothill Blvd. / AAA Mattole on B St.

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THEATER & DANCE

Oz to the Left

Stephanie Reif rewrites a classic play with all lesbian characters.

Everyone who saw the MGM version of ***The Wizard of Oz*** has the same indelible image of Dorothy Gale imprinted on his mind's visual screen: Pigtails. White pinafore. Blue gingham apron. Wicker basket. Red bow lips. Local playwright **Stephanie Reif** used the same template for her own Dorothy with one twist. In Reif's Oz-spinoff — appropriately titled *Left of Oz* — Dorothy is a lesbian. She comes out to Aunt Emma early in the play, then embarks on her journey down a yellow brick road that leads, naturally, to San Francisco. Specifically, this road ends at a corner of Market Street that's wedged between Castro and Octavia, close to the **LGBT Community Center**. There, Dorothy (played by **Sarah Mosby**) encounters a whole taxonomy of lesbian characters, including a hippie scarecrow, a leather-butch lion, and a samba teacher with a big heart.

Kent Taylor Photography

Left of Oz is like the classic, with a twist.

Reif says she wasn't trying to play the Oz characters against type. Dorothy is still a seeker. The scarecrow-ish Jazmin (**Amelia Mae Paradise**) is free-spirited and infectious. The lion (**Helena J**) is tough and stony on the outside, with a soft interior. Aunt Emma (**Val Scott**) is the unwaveringly supportive parental guardian. There's even a good witch (Reif) and a "naughty" witch (**Adrienne Seltzer**). And it turns out they have a past.

The difference, of course, is that all of these characters derive from a single rarefied subculture. It's not only lesbian, but also very specific to San Francisco. "A person from the middle of the country wouldn't know what we were talking about," said Reif, who had Jazmin translate all the hip West Coast lingo into a language more suited for Dorothy's virgin ears. "So the leather butch is talking about something like strapping on," Reif said. "And Dorothy's like, 'What's strapping on?' And Jazmin says, 'I'll tell ya later.'" At one point, Dorothy regrets not staying home in Kansas and marrying the boy next door. Her new friends scoff. "Eh, there's nothing you can get from a dude that you can't buy in silicone," says the lion. Dorothy is flummoxed. Reif worries that the joke might go over everyone's heads.

Probably not. With its insider jokes and fervent identity politics, *Left of Oz* is definitely tailored to a niche audience. But it's also a fun musical send-up, packed with enough song-and-dance numbers to placate the uninitiated, said Reif. There are thirteen musical breaks in all, including a **Bob Fosse**-style dance in a leather bar and a "Forget That Girl" tap dance to cheer up Dorothy when she thinks she's lost her boo. (**Douglas Caldwell** handles all the choreography.) When Reif wrote the original in 1995, she used parodies of Broadway tunes. Upon rewriting the play a few years ago, she threw out the old score and made a new one from scratch, using all original material. Granted, the lyrics always nod to the source material — i.e., Jazmin's signature tune "If I Don't Burn Out My Brain." In many ways, this Oz harks back to old-school musical revues. It's just a little to the left. *Left of Oz* runs July 2-18 at **the Ashby Stage** (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). LeftofOz.com — *Rachel Swan*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/leftofoz

COMEDY

10 Comics for $10 With a rotating lineup. Thu., July 1, 1:30 p.m.; Fri., July 2, 1:30 & 9:30 p.m.; Sat., July 3, 1 & 8:30 p.m. $10. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

The Alameda Comedy Jam: Salute to Liberty! Featuring Allan Hans, Mike Betancourt, Jason Gower, and Jackie "Is Funny" Harrison. Fri., July 2, 8 p.m. $18. Auctions by the Bay Theater, Alameda Point Naval Air Station (Alameda Point), Alameda. 510-740-0226. AuctionsbytheBay.com.

The Alameda Comedy Jam: Salute to Liberty! Featuring Allan Hans, Mike Betancourt, Jason Gower, and Jackie "Is Funny" Harrison. Fri., July 2, 8 p.m. $18. Auctions by the Bay Theater, Alameda Point Naval Air Station (Alameda Point), Alameda. 510-740-0226. AuctionsbytheBay.com.

Comedy Off Broadway Oakland With [illegible] from Comedy Central, [illegible] and more. Thursdays-Fridays, 8 & 9:30 p.m. Continues through July 30. [illegible] Mass Feast & Jam House, One Broadway, Oakland. 510-444-7171. [illegible]

Rachel McDowell Hosted by Candy Sheila and also featuring [illegible] [illegible] Wed., June 30, 9-11 p.m., free. [illegible] Pub, 5352 College Ave., Oakland. 510-654-5403.

Scantily Clad Showcase [illegible] acts. [illegible] 9 p.m. $12-$15. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Stone Soup Improv Comedy A monthly showcase of improvised [illegible] First Saturday of every month, 8 p.m. $7-$10. Temescal Arts Center, 511 48th St., Oakland. 510-923-1074. TemescalArtsCenter.org.

Thursday Night Hang With rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Superior Without Regrets [illegible] MC battle and poetry slam [illegible] by Jamie Kennedy and Good Douched. First Thursday of every month, 8:30 p.m. $7-$10. [illegible] Opera House, 630 3rd St., Oakland. [illegible]

DANCE-PERFORMANCE

Live Salsa Music Beginning and intermediate [illegible] lessons, plus a live musical performance by a different act each week. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. $10, $5 students. Shattuck Down Low, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-1159. ShattuckDownLow.com.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee [illegible] Community Players presents the interactive musical comedy written by Rachel Sheinkin and William Finn, and directed by Jared [illegible] Fridays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sun., July 11, 2 p.m. Continues through July 11. $20 general, $17 students and seniors. Pinole Community Playhouse, 601 Tennent Ave., Pinole. 510-724-9844. PinolePlayers.org.

Crazy Whitman Saves the World Again A [illegible] monologue about the epic and Finnish [illegible] written and performed by author, radio commentator and [illegible] teacher [illegible] Associate [illegible] by [illegible] Fri., July 2, 8 p.m.; Sat., July 3, 2 p.m. $35 general, $20 for subscribers, $12.50 under 30. Berkeley Rep School of Theatre, 2071 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2975.

Dido, Queen of Carthage Staged reading of the [illegible] play. Directed by Matthew Yaranca, written by Christopher Marlowe, and presented by [illegible] Shakespeare. Mon., July 5, 7:30 p.m. $8. Berkeley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1924 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4924. [illegible]

East 14th: True Tales of a Reluctant Player One-man show by Oakland native Don Reed. Fri., July 2, 8 p.m.; Sat., July 3, 8 p.m.; Fri., July 9, 8 p.m.; Sun., July 11, 7 p.m.; Fri., July 16, 8 p.m.; Sun., July 18, 1 p.m.; Sat., July 24, 8 p.m.; Sun., July 25, 7 p.m.; Fri., July 30, 8 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 1, 1 p.m. $20-$35 sliding scale. Reserved seating $50. The Marsh Berkeley at Gaia Arts Center, 2120 Allston Way, Berkeley. 510-644-4048. TheMarsh.org.

Left of Oz A lesbian-queer musical comedy following Dorothy as she leaves Kansas and looks for love in San Francisco. Fri., July 2, 8 p.m.; Sat., July 3, 8 p.m.; Sun., July 4, 7 p.m.; Sat., July 10, 2 & 8 p.m.; Sun., July 11, 1 p.m.; Fri., July 16, 8 p.m.; Sat., July 17, 8 p.m.; Sun., July 18, 7 p.m.; Thu., July 9, 8 p.m. $25. The Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500. [illegible]

POSTCARDS or **Death of the Writer** Directed by Wilma Bonet and written by [illegible] Gene Sullivan and Elton Cañas. [illegible] in [illegible] the workplace in Argentina and the US. Opens at [illegible] Park with dates around the Bay Area, including July 10 at the [illegible] Field, [illegible] (6:30 pm), July 17 and 18 at Cedar Rose Park, Berkeley (both 1:30 pm), July 24 and 25 at [illegible] Park, Berkeley (both 1:30 pm), August 4 and 5 at Lakeside Park (both 1:30 pm), August 14 and 15 at Live Oak Park, Berkeley (both 1:30 pm), August 28 at Mosswood Park, Oakland (1:30 pm) and September 11 at Chabot College Performing Arts Center, Hayward (1:30 pm). Sat., July 3, 1:30 p.m.; Sun., July 4, 1:30 p.m.; Mon., July 5, 1:30 p.m.; [illegible] Free. [illegible] Park, [illegible] St. at 10th St., San Francisco. 415-554-9523.

Proof By David Auburn, directed by Mary Beth Cavanaugh. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through July 3. Lafayette Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

Speech & Debate By Stephen Karam, directed by Robin Stanton. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 & 7 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 p.m. Continues through July 18. Aurora Theatre, 2081 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-843-4822. AuroraTheatre.org.

The Drawer Boy By Michael Healey, directed by [illegible] and with Warren David Keith, Max Rosenak, and Howard Swain. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through July 4. $15-$30. Marion E. Greene Black Box Theatre, 531 19th St., Oakland.

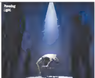
Tings Dey Happen One-man show [illegible] Written and performed by Dan Hoyle; directed by [illegible] Wed., June 30, 8 p.m.; Thu., July 1, 8 p.m. $31 general, $20 for subscribers, $12.50 under 30. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949. BerkeleyRep.org.

PICKS

Speech & Debate

The [illegible] spaces character in **Robin Stanton**'s interpretation [illegible] ***Speech & Debate***, a play about sexuality and privacy in the digital age. Surely that's what playwright **Stephen Karam** intended. He played with the theme almost to the point of ostentation, characterizing each scene with some relevant rhetorical term and allowing characters to cross-examine each other throughout. As a result, form mirrors content in a wink-wink, nudge-nudge kind of way. Stanton ups the ante by running a series of video montages between scenes, each revolving around a single obvious metaphor. (For ejaculation, fireworks and bottles of champagne being uncorked; for "coming out," portal imagery.) Such visual gags help enhance a script that's already wildly entertaining. Three misfit teens join hands to root out a school sex scandal, and wind up exposing each other in the process. **Marc Guevara**, **Jessa Frank**, and **Jayne Deely** are terrific as the troubled teens. **Heidi Hornlien** shines as the fashionable, self-absorbed journalist who subjects them to an extra round of public shaming. Through July 18 at **Aurora Theatre** (2081 Addison St., Berkeley). 634-845. AuroraTheatre.org. — *Rachel Swan*

Joe Goode's Traveling Light



Traveling Light.

[illegible] takes you somewhere you've never been before. In the case of **Joe Goode Performance Group**'s ***Traveling Light*** that place is San Francisco's **Old Mint** (88 Fifth Street, San Francisco). Opened in 1874, the "Granite Lady" once held a third of America's gold [illegible] of [illegible] which are rarely open to the public. Wednesdays through Sundays, July 7 through Aug. 1, visitors can explore those haunting chambers and peek in on a unique tableau of contemporary dance and atmospheric theatrical landscaping contained within each. Choreographed by Goode, a member of UC Berkeley's dance faculty, *Traveling Light* explores themes of wealth and lost fortunes, good times and bad — integrating the Old Mint into the new economy. Last year's shows sold out, so advance tickets are recommended. A Sunday Salon, including an extra song performed in the vaults, precedes each Sunday performance. 8 p.m., plus [illegible] p.m. Fri.-Sat. $25-$44. 415-561-6565 or JoeGoode.org. — *Claudia Bauer*

The Drawer Boy

It's fitting that **TheatreFirst**'s latest production takes as its subject matter a city slicker playwright who travels to an agrarian community intent on studying farmers in their natural habitat. Actors **Warren David Keith** (playing [illegible]) and **Howard Swain** (playing his friend Morgan) must have done a similar anthropological study to authenticate their roles. Keith and Swain star opposite **Max Rosenak**, who plays Miles, the unflappable liberal arts student who emerges from Rochdale College in Toronto with all sorts of delusions — among them, the notion that he can try "the simple life" for a month and learn enough to write a play about it. Apparently that actually happened. Writer **Michael Healey** based ***The Drawer Boy*** on a 1972 play called *The Farm Show*, for which a group of Toronto actors invaded the rural outskirts of Clinton, Ontario. Healey larded his script with sarcastic dialogue, dramaturgical references, and stories-within-stories. It takes a trio of powerful actors to sift through all that language and bring out the drama underneath. Fortunately, the three in the Oakland production are formidable. Through July 4 at **Marion E. Greene Black Box Theatre** (531 19th St., Oakland). $15-$30. 510-436-5085 or TheatreFirst.com — *R.S.*

More Listings Online
Get info about dozens more theatrical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

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First Friday

ART OPENINGS & EVENTS

See the Art Gallery listings in the *Express* for more information on East Bay art showings.

Spend an evening supporting local arts!

Some venues offering art openings and/or special events on First Friday July 2nd.

ALAMEDA

Frank Bette Center
1601 Paru St.

ALBANY

Gathering Tribes
1412 Solano Ave

BERKELEY

Berkeley Art Museum
2626 Bancroft Way

Berkeley Potters Guild
731 Jones St.

Kala Gallery
2990 San Pablo Ave.

Urbanity
1687 Solano Ave.

KENSINGTON

Nan Phelps Photography
398 Colusa Ave

OAKLAND

57th Street Gallery
5701 Telegraph Ave.

21 Grand
416 25th St

Actual Café
6334 San Pablo Ave

Awaken Café
414 14th St.

Bellevue Club
525 Bellevue Ave

Blank Space
6608 San Pablo Ave

Bay Area Visual Arts Network
455 17th St.

Buzz Gallery
2318 Telegraph Ave

Café Van Kleef
1621 Telegraph Ave

Chandra Cerrito Gallery
25 Grand Ave.

The Compound Gallery
1167 San Pablo Ave

Creative Growth
355 24th St.

The Crucible's Cathedral Gallery
1615 Broadway

Five Ten Studio
831 Broadway Ave.

Forthrite Gallery
5857 San Pablo Ave

Front Gallery
35 Grand Ave

Great Wall of Oakland
Back wall on Grand Ave.
between Broadway and Valley

Hatch
492 23rd St

Johansson Projects
2300 Telegraph Ave

Joyce Gordon Gallery
406 14th St

Kuhl Frames + Art
412 22nd St.

The Layover
1517 Franklin St.

LB at Twilight
582 7th St @ Jefferson

Lavende East
827 Washington St

Lirelle
3980 Piedmont Ave.

LoBot Gallery
1800 Campbell St.

Luka's Taproom & Lounge
2221 Broadway

Mercury 20
475 25th St.

The Mean
447 25th St

Oakland Underground Film Festival
Cinema Salon
95 Broadway

Oakopolis
447 25th St

ProArts
150 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza

Pro Arts @ Latham Square
1611 Telegraph Ave.

RAW Gallery
1451 Telegraph Ave

Red Door Gallery
416 26th St.

Rock Paper Scissors Collective
2278 Telegraph Ave

Rooz Café
1918 Park Blvd

Rowan Morrison
330 40th St.

Smokey's Tangle
4709 Telegraph Ave

Somar Bar and Lounge
1727 Telegraph Ave

Spice Monkey Café and Restaurant
1628 Webster St.

Studio Quercus
385 26th St.

Swarm Studios & Gallery
560 2nd St.

The Swee(t)Art Drawing Gallery
6602 San Pablo Ave

Tech Liminal
268 14th St.

Temescal Arts Center
511 48th St.

Thelma Harris Art Gallery
5940 College Ave

UrbanSpace Gallery
811 Washington St.

SAN LEANDRO

Anna Edwards Gallery
237 East 14th St.

If you are an East Bay venue offering a First Friday evening art event, please email your information to promotions@eastbayexpress.com to be included in the August directory

EAST BAY EXPRESS

LAUREL BOOK STORE

6/30 7pm Lucy Jan Bledsoe
Big Bang Symphony

7/6 7pm Jessica Holter
[illegible]

7/9 7pm Jacqueline Luckett
Searching for Tina Turner

7/17 7pm Robert Phillipson
[illegible]

7/21 7pm Henry Lee
Presumed Dead

4100 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland CA
510 531 2073 laurelbookstore@att.net
M-F 10-7 Sat 10-6 Sun 11-5

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LECTURES & LIT

The Missing Wife

Oaklander and *Chronicle* crime reporter Henry K. Lee pens a book about a very local murder

Like the memorabilia of many other murderers, **Hans Reiser**'s résumé is viewable online. It begins: "Entered UC Berkeley after completing the eighth grade ... focused on math, physics, operations research, economics." The résumé lists jobs — programmer, file system architect, "Senior Technology Integrator and Clearcase Performance Tuning Consultant" — but fails to mention Reiser's best known occupation: murderer.

Russian-born obstetrician **Nina Reiser** had filed for divorce before vanishing in September 2006. Pleading innocent but found guilty in a murder trial, Hans Reiser then led cops to Nina's corpse near their Oakland Hills home. **Henry K. Lee**, who spent six months covering the case for the *San Francisco Chronicle*, calls that last revelation a "shocking turn."

Henry K. Lee

Lee probes the case in his first book, ***Presumed Dead: A True Life Murder Mystery***. Its Wednesday, July 7 launch party is at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland), near the crime scene.

Although "I am always reluctant to develop, much less share, personal opinions," because "as a reporter it is important to stay impartial and be open to all sides," Lee sometimes struggled for equanimity during the Reiser trial.

"It was heart-wrenching to see Hans' son testify," he said. "He clearly had been impacted by the loss of his mother and his father's bizarre behavior. For a long time the two children heard conflicting stories about their mother, and they had no idea whether she had in fact abandoned them and gone back to Russia, as Hans had suggested," noted Lee, a UC Berkeley grad and Oakland resident himself. Aged five and six when the murder occurred, the Reisers' son and daughter "were too young to grasp the enormity of it all. ... One day, the kids were two typical East Bay children shopping at **Berkeley Bowl** with their mom; the next day, she disappeared."

Crime has always intrigued Lee. "My best friend and I would chase cop cars on our bikes from the time that we were seven years old," he said. "In high school, we saved up for a police scanner so we could chase them in our cars and go to crime scenes. By the time I got to Cal I was well versed in police code and getting to crime scenes before the cops did. I like the fast pace of crime reporting. ... There is nothing better than getting some crucial piece of information and getting it into the paper or online before anyone else."

But a tough part of crime reportage is interviewing victims' traumatized, angry, or bereft loved ones. Lee's approach is to "be as sensitive and as understanding as possible," he said. "I offer my condolences and gently ask them if they want to share any positive remembrances, if only to offset the sadness they are feeling. I am prepared for any reaction, from slammed doors to hang-ups to tearful conversations. ... I usually keep my emotions in check, but it can be challenging at times, especially if a child is hurt or killed." 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.indiebound.com

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/henryklee

LECTURES

artFACTS The monthly lecture series for craftsmen takes place after the Alameda Point Antiques and Collectibles Faire. First Sunday of every month, 3 p.m. $5-$7. Alameda [illegible] Alameda Point Naval Air Station (Alameda Point), Alameda. 510-[illegible] [illegible]

Fox Tales A look at the fox, in fiction and in reality. Wed., June 30, 6:30 p.m., free. Sycamore Grove/Veterans Park, 1051 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-960-2400, LARPD.dst.Ca.US/[illegible]

LITERARY EVENTS

Bay Area Poets Coalition Open Reading Sat., July 3, 3 p.m., free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-841-8337.

Bay Area Poets Coalition Open Reading First Saturday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Strawberry Creek Lodge, 1320 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-841-8337.

Buford High Book Club [illegible] by [illegible] and keep the book. Thu., July 1, 3:45 p.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.Hayward-ca.gov

Postcards of the Past Digital storytelling station allows people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.Hayward-ca.gov.

El Sobrante Library Book Group *Out Stealing Horses* by Per Petterson. Thu., July 1, 7 p.m., free. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991, www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/libinfo/branch_loc/elsobrante.

Exhibit: Fighting Nazism with Words Exhibit of literature published clandestinely during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Through Aug. 31, free. Doe Library, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley. 510-643-6138.

Exhibit: The Future of the Book Exhibit traces the history of print over six centuries, from parchment, scrolls, and clay tablets to modern media. Through Aug. 6, free. UC Berkeley Moffitt Library, UCB campus, Berkeley.

First Thursdays A monthly open mic with featured readers and/or a featured poet. First Thursday of every month, 7-9 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Maggie Pouncey Reading from her book *Perfect Reader*. Thu., July 1, 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Dalloway's, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222, MrsDalloways.com.

Middle East Studies Group Call Dave Baldwin at 510-893-2542 for more info. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland.

Mystery Novels by Women: *Murder in the Marais* Evolution of the mystery novel by Cara Black. Tue., July 6, 11:30 a.m., free. Le Paradis Bakery, 22808 Mission St., Hayward.

Mystery Novels by Women: *Murder in the Marais* Evolution of the mystery novel by Cara Black. Tue., July 6, 11:30 a.m., free. Le Paradis Bakery, 22808 Mission St., Hayward.

Mystery Novels by Women: *Murder in the Marais* Evolution of the mystery novel by Cara Black. Tue., July 6, 6:30-7:45 p.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

New Audio Book Downloads A new service offered through the library's improved web site. Features include an online reference librarian, catalogue and database access, search box, pull-down menus, and links. Daily. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

Online Book Clubs Sign up for this program and read the latest books via e-mail, or chat about books of discussion to see. To participate, visit OaklandLibrary.org. Daily.

The Remainders Book Group First Thursday of every month, 7-8 p.m. El Sobrante Library, 4191 Appian Way, El Sobrante. 510-374-3991, www.contra-costa.lib.ca.us/libinfo/branch

PICKS

Maggie Pouncey

In **Maggie Pouncey**'s debut novel ***Perfect Reader***, stubborn and self-assured only-child Flora Dempsey returns to her quaint hometown after her college-president father's death. Discovering a hidden hoard of poems he composed in his final years, she learns that he had a lover of whom she'd never heard — and thus a kind of secret life. Pouncey discusses this literary exploration of the many vagaries of intimacy at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, July 1, 7:30 p.m. Free. MrsDalloways.com. — *Anneli Rufus*

Turkey Vultures Lecture

High above the hills, they soar: black with four-foot wingspans and wrinkly red heads. Turkey vultures are fixtures of the East Bay environment, but the very name makes some people shudder. At the **Montclair Presbyterian Church** (5701 Thornhill Dr., Oakland) on Monday, July 5, **East Bay Regional Park District** naturalist **Mike Moran** delivers a lecture on these important but underappreciated carnivores, as part of outdoor-education program **Close to Home**, a series of talks about East Bay wildlife. 7:30 p.m. $7. Close-to-Home.org. — *A.R.*

rdlbakand/Flickr (CC)

Turkey vultures.

Juan L. Sánchez

Born in Spain, **Juan L. Sánchez** taught Spanish at UCLA for several years before deciding to perform widely with his guitar, singing and telling children's stories in both English and Spanish. At the **Oakland Public Library's Eastmont Branch** (7200 Bancroft Ave., Ste. 211, Oakland) on Wednesday, July 7, Sánchez presents an ocean-themed program for young library patrons. Evoking summer days beside the sea, songs and games from around the world augment the yarns. 10:30 a.m. Free. OaklandLibrary.org — *A.R.*

Cathy Edgett and Jane Flint

When first preparing for breast-cancer surgery and chemotherapy, **Cathy Edgett** never imagined that someday she would call the experience "a treasure hunt filled with gifts." But the support of fellow writer, health advocate, and friend **Jane Flint** changed everything, so that's what the pair call Edgett's journey in their new book ***Breast Stroke: Two Friends Journey Through the Unexpected Gifts of Cancer***. Meet them at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Wednesday, July 7, 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net — *A.R.*

[illegible]

Sharing Books We Love [illegible] Last Wednesday of every month, 12:30 p.m. $5 suggested donation. Unitarian Universalist Church, 1 Lawson Rd., Berkeley. 510-525-0302. [illegible]

Sharon Marie Eddington Signing her book [illegible] which focuses on cell message usage and etiquette in personal and business life. Wed., June 30, 5-7 p.m. Free. [illegible] 272 Broadway, Oakland.

Stephen Ratcliffe and Robert Grenier Reading recent poetry works. Wed., June 30, 7:30 p.m. Free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087. MoesBooks.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

Berkeley Liberation Radio Planning Meeting Newcomers welcome. Visit the website at http://www.berkeleyliberationradio.net for their broadcasting schedule and information on how to get a show. Thu., July 1, 1 p.m.; Thu., July 15, 1 p.m. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

Free Green Sharing Tours of Downtown Oakland [illegible] Reservations [illegible] but not required. More information at 510-238-3234. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Continues through Oct. 30. Free. Downtown Oakland, 12th and Broadway, Oakland.

Free Skool: Psychedelic and Entheogen Activism Roundtable discussion about the virtues of various plants and chemicals and the ways in which their use and prohibition have affected culture. Saturdays, 1:30-3 p.m. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

SPOKEN WORD

"80s at Night" '80s movies and TV shows, plus 2 for $5 well drinks. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Free. Pasand Lounge, 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. PasandLounge.com.

The Berkeley Poetry Slam hosted by Charles Ellik, Bryce Bell. Music by DJ [illegible] Wednesdays, 8 p.m., $7 [illegible] Story Plough, 3011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-2082. StarryPlough-Pub.com.

Café Poetry Featured readers and an open mic. [illegible] Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. Donations requested. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Comedy Night hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cafe, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco. 415-[illegible]

Comedy Blast hosted by [illegible] Mondays, 8 p.m. [illegible] Room, 406 Clement St., San Francisco. 415-387-6344. [illegible]

First Thursdays A comedy open mic with featured readers and/or a [illegible] First Thursday of every month, 7-8 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

Hella Rock!! open-mic night for poets. Thursdays, 8:30 p.m. Free. [illegible] Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

Hella Slam A night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 p.m., donations requested. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

Magic & Mirth w/ [illegible] Saturdays, 8 p.m. $20. [illegible] Theater, Stage 250, San Francisco. 415-648-0270.

Monday Night Mix w/ a rotating lineup of SF Comedy College alumni. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Music & Spoken Word Open Mic First Sunday of every month, 4-8 p.m. Free. Cafe Van Kleef [illegible] 1332 Park St., Alameda. 510-769-4928. [illegible]

Poetic Groove W/ [illegible] Fridays, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] House of Unity, Eastmont Town Center, Oakland. 510-436-0000.

Poetry Diversified A twice-monthly open mic with featured readers, hosted by poetry ensemble [illegible] First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m. Free. World Ground Cafe, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-482-2833. WorldGrounds.com.

The Oakland Floor Comedy variety show hosted by [illegible] Last Wednesday of every month, 7:30-10 p.m., $2 [illegible] 3025 22nd St., San Francisco. 415-647-2888. [illegible]

SF Comedy Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m. $3. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco. 415-397-4337. SFPunchlineComedyClub.com.

Camp Bay Show rotating acts. Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St., #705, San Francisco. 415-921-2051. SFComedyCollege.com.

Thursday at Blast Beat A weekly spoken-word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. [illegible] Mediterraneum Cafe, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-1128.

Books in Progress [illegible] hosts a [illegible] open mic with [illegible] poets. Sign up between 1 and 2:30 p.m. for 5-8 minutes of performing time. First Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9:45 p.m. $5 admission includes light refreshments. 510-271-0379. [illegible] Cultural Arts Club, 1890 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. 510-339-1832.

Outdoors Word Art Visual and Oral History Night All presenters — except for guest speakers — will be allowed 3-8 minutes to tell their stories or present their opinions. Singing begins at 8:15. First and Third Friday of every month, 8:30 p.m. [illegible] com. Cafe [illegible] 13700 [illegible] Dr., San Leandro. 510-351-[illegible]

More Listings Online
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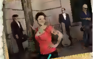

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August 6
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"My hat is off, as are my glasses and all other accessories — that was the best party I've been to in Oakland since... hell, ever."
Kevin Seel, Executive Producer Pandora.com

"SO inspiring to see something like this come off smoothly and to see everyone enjoying themselves so much. The people watching was as-good-as-it-gets! So much great music, art, food and creative stuff! East Bay R-U-L-E-S!!!!!"
Marc Weinstein, Owner, Amoeba Music

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Playing on the Blues Stage Aug. 6th

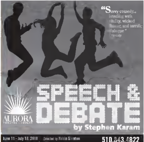
Big Cat Tolefree

Band Bio
From the inner-city limits of beautiful Oakland, California, Big Cat and his Hipnotic Band have single-handedly transformed the West Coast blues and soul sound with his trend-setting music and unique vocal style. Name drops aren't needed for the multi-award winning, third generation Russell City blues singer. Big Cat has the skills and sex appeal to stand on his own for decades to come. Big Cat Tolefree opened for The Temptations, Jimmy McCracklin, Pinetop Perkins, Sonny Rhodes and Big-Time Sarah.

He's earned "New Blues Artist of the Year", "Male Blues Vocalist of the Year" and Europe's "Best Traditional Blues Artist" all in one amazing year. His traditional "Night Train" song continues to top charts from coast to coast, including international spins.

Big Cat has quietly become the most popular and sought-after male blues singer in over a decade. Blues fans come from miles away to see his extraordinary stage show, featuring his sexy back-up singers and talented band The Hipnotics. He's currently headlining internationally and right here at home in the states at BB King's in N.Y., and Sly McFly's in Monterey and Biscuits & Blues in San Francisco. Experience the power of BigCatEntertainment.com

Website
BigCatEntertainment.com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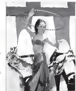

Nicole Wong.

Around and around her hips spins the silvery striped hoop. Around both legs it spins, then around just one leg, then an arm, then her slender neck. Dancing in sleek, flare-legged trousers, she could be a mermaid. Spinning on one shoulder, then another, the hoop whirs and blurs.

Merging Native American ceremonial dance with the late-Sixties Hula Hoop, "hooping" is 21st-century aerobics with a house beat. Enrolling in her first hoopdancing class two years ago, **Nicole Wong** had never before seen it performed. Her childhood dalliance with hot-pink Hula Hoops was ancient history.

Watching the teacher begin that first class, "I was mesmerized," Wong said. "I should have been intimidated. I had no prior dance experience, and I have never considered myself much of an athlete. However, there was something inherently inviting and non-intimidating about the hoop. Having nothing more than a positive attitude, I was able to pick up many of the moves that evening."

Two years later, Wong is now a professional hoopdancer. As the founder of Berkeley's **Cherry Hoops**, she performs at private parties and corporate events such as a **Lady Gaga**-themed party in Oakland earlier this year for Yelp's Elite members, whom Wong dazzled by hoopdancing go-go-style in a black leotard, red boots, supersize sunglasses, platinum wig, and glowing hoop. She can spin multiple hoops at one time, invents her own moves — such as the quick leg-lift "flamingo pass" — and makes her own hoops. She also offers workshops such as **Introduction to Hoopdance**, at the **Veterans Memorial Building** (4321 Salem St., Emeryville) on Tuesday, July 6.

Wong divides her days between hoopdancing and working toward a Ph.D. in education at UC Berkeley. At Cal, "I study the ways people think and learn, and I work on a number of research projects that investigate the conditions that best support learning." What she learns from these projects comes in handy during hoopdance classes "in terms of tailoring my instruction to support a wide variety of learners," she said. "My students are individuals with individual needs. They have different learning styles, backgrounds in fitness and dance, body shapes and sizes, and goals for the class. Some students are looking for a fun way to spend time with their friends, some are looking for a new workout, and some aspire to be hardcore hoopers."

The hooping scene is growing exponentially, with lit polyethylene rings spinning everywhere from **Burning Man** to **Cirque de Soleil** — sometimes on fire.

For Wong, "the best thing about hoopdance is that it keeps me active but it doesn't feel like a workout. … Since I started hooping two and a half years ago, I have noticed that I have more endurance, I am stronger, and I have more muscle tone in my legs, abs, and arms. More importantly, hoopdancing has made exercise a fun and regular part of my daily life. I can't believe that I now look forward to exercising." 7 p.m., $15-$20. CherryHoops.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/ae/hoopdance

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The Alameda County organization provides free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, case management services, assistance with housing, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food vouchers, and more. Volunteer opportunities available. Daily. AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1710 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-7979, APEB.org.

Bay Street Stroller Strides Fitness program for moms to incorporate power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training into their baby strolls. Info: 510-[illegible], or StrollerStrides.net/eastbay. Fridays, 9:30 a.m., first class is free; $120 for 10-class pass. Old Navy, 5625 Bay St., Emeryville.

Breast Cancer Support Group for Spanish-Speaking Women Registration required, call 510-[illegible]. Third and First Monday of every month, 4-6 p.m., free. Women's Cancer Education and Prevention Center, 1420 23rd St., Room 2030, Oakland, 510-[illegible].

[illegible] Family Movement to Reverse Type 2 Diabetes Naturally With a screening of the documentary Simply Raw: Reversing Diabetes in 30 Days, followed by a Q&A session with filmmaker Michael Bedar and other experts. Thu., July 1, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $8 at the door, $5 advance. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org.

More Listings Online
Find hundreds of up-to-date Arts listings at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

PERSONAL GROWTH

Poetry and Meditation With Tracy McMullen. Sat., July 3, 9 a.m.-noon. $15. Tibetan Nyingma Institute, 1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley, 510-843-6812, www.nyingma.org.

Womensong Circle A monthly group led by singer-songwriter Betsy Rose with special guests. The repertoire includes songs of peace, justice, and protest, chants, folk songs, round songs, and humor. No previous singing experience or skills needed. Come early for potluck snacks and social time at 6:45 p.m. First Friday of every month, 7:15-9:30 p.m., $10-$15. 510-[illegible], betsy@betsyrosemusic.org. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Alta Bates Summit Medical Center's Vascular Rehabilitation Program This program [illegible] instruction on beneficial activities you can do at home, education on clinically relevant topics, and guided strength routines in a supportive group setting. Physician referral required. Instruction takes place at 3100 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley (next to Whole Foods). Info: 510-204-1554. Thursdays, 10 a.m., Tuesdays, 10 a.m. $64.

Shibashi Tai Qigong Course Presented by Tian Gong International. Wed., June 30, 7:30 p.m.; Wed., July 7, 7:30 p.m. $143. Buddhanande, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-[illegible]. Buddhanande.com

Intuitive Feng Shui/Energy and Your Home. With intuitive geopathologist Maddie Vanvonsen. Thu., July 1, 6:30-8 p.m. $20. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Wy., Berkeley.

YOGA & BODYWORK

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, breathing, improvising, and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. $10-$25. InterPlayce, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-465-2797, InterPlay.org.

Laughter Yoga All levels welcome. Sat., July 3, 3-4:45 a.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward, 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Live Music and Vinyasa Flow Join Shakti Gameshow and Daniel Tucker for a mindful vinyasa practice with live music. First Thursday of every month. 7th Heaven Yoga, 2880 7th St., Berkeley, 510-665-4350, 7thHeavenYoga.com.

PICKS

Simply Raw Screening

Six diabetics switched to a raw vegan diet. All lost weight; some were able to reduce the amount of their daily medications. Watch their journey in *Simply Raw: Reversing Diabetes in 30 Days*, a documentary by Marin County filmmaker **Michael Bedar**. Accompanying a screening at the **Ecology Center** (2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, July 1, are a raffle, food tasting, and panel discussion including Bedar and vegan caterer **HuNia Bradley** of **HuNia's Divine Soul Kitchen**. 7:30 p.m., $5-$8. Eat-Reel.org — *Anneli Rufus*

"Music and Meditation" Workshop

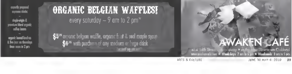
Music can alter the human brain's rhythms in ways that facilitate stillness and open the mind to new modes of thinking — and not thinking. At the **Tibetan Nyingma Institute** (1815 Highland Pl., Berkeley) on Saturday, July 3, performer/composer/scholar **Tracy McMullen** leads a workshop titled "**Music and Meditation**," which offers techniques for listening to music in different ways and is part of the institute's "**Emotions, Intelligence, and the Mind**" series. 9 a.m., $15. NyingmaInstitute.com — *A.R.*

Yoga Open House

What's better for the body and soul than a yoga class? A whole day's worth of yoga classes. What's even better than that? A whole day of yoga classes that cost nothing. The **Niroga Center** (1808 University Ave., Berkeley), an eco-friendly studio with special courses for seniors and the ill, offers monthly **open houses** packed with free classes for all. On Wednesday, July 7, these classes include Mindful Vinyasa Yoga, Yoga and Thai Massage, Kundalini Yoga, and Healing Yoga. Noon-8:45 p.m., free. NirogaCenter.org — *A.R.*

High Holy Days Workshop

As the Days of Awe approach, Jews face the long period of contemplation and introspection that climaxes in the High Holy Days. At **Chochmat HaLev** (2215 Prince St., Berkeley) on Wednesday, July 7, Rabbi **SaraLeya Schley** leads the first in a series of five workshops titled "**From Grief to Gladness**," guiding participants through the experience of Jewish sacred time leading up to Sukkot. The text for the series is "Zen Rabbi" **Alan Lew**'s *This Is Real and You Are Completely Unprepared*. 7 p.m., $60-$125 for the whole series, $20-$28 per session. Chochmat.org — *A.R.*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THE AQUARIUM AGE

CAUGHT BETWEEN TWO ECLIPSES

For the week of June 30-July 6, 2010

By Ralfee Finn

Waves of intensity continue to pound the shores of daily life this week, as the current planetary Gang of Three — Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus — tighten their formation, which is exact on July 26. As personal and collective tensions symbolized by the final Saturn/Uranus opposition increase, so does uncertainty about the future, especially this week and next as we traverse the terrain between the lunar eclipse of June 26 and the solar eclipse of July 11. The territory between eclipses is a powerful psychic field, and coming, it could provoke internal and external confrontations with old emotional and psychological patterns. If you experience inner conflict, try not to let the ensuing mind chatter turn deafening. The atmosphere is ripe with opportunity for inner critics to mutter about how everyone and everything should be. But pay attention to the chatter before you make every effort to let it go. It has the potential to reveal where your power is leaking. Remember: judgment — not to be confused with discernment — is almost always about using a sense of superiority to mask feelings of worthlessness. If the confrontations are external, do your best to diffuse polarization. No matter how righteous your position, lasting peace can only be realized through cooperation.

From an astrological perspective, during a solar eclipse, as the Moon overshadows the Sun, the power of the unconscious overshadows conscious concerns. This overshadowing can become a highly charged aggregation of projection, a condition that makes it nearly impossible to find any solid ground or agreed-upon emotional reality. Anticipate hypersensitivity, as well as the tendency to react as if all of life depends on the immediate moment. A word spoken in haste can become a magnet for repressed or suppressed feelings, and before you can say "I'm sorry," reactions may morph into a complete mythology, replete with heroes, villains, and a detailed back story. Often, the force of a projection is so strong that one of us can lose ourselves in its force and actually take it on. Be wary if you find yourself exhibiting behavior you don't recognize as your own. In extreme cases, the only way to diffuse the projection is to let the situation "[illegible]" and hope that clarity will be restored over time.

Both the lunar eclipse and the solar eclipse occur on the Cancer/Capricorn axis. Cancer, ruled by the Moon, symbolizes the mother and the longing to belong. Capricorn, ruled by Saturn, symbolizes the father and the structures that help society to cohere. Both Signs signify issues of safety and security. As the eclipse effect continues, you or someone you love is likely to be overly concerned with these issues. Rather than dismissing these concerns, allow them to be indicators of feelings still in need of conscious integration.

As the eclipse effect stirs emotional bodies, it also exacerbates tensions generated by the Jupiter/Uranus/Saturn opposition. This opposition signifies the dissolution of the status quo, personal as well as collective. If you can notice where you are most affected by the psychic terrain of the eclipses or where you are feeling lost in projection, you can use the intensity to your benefit. Often, the patterns we cling to are the very structures we need to release in order to make way for a true transformation.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that, too.

ARIES The eclipse effect focuses on how to attain a better balance between career and personal concerns. Knowing where your time is best spent will help you to expend your energy wisely.

TAURUS The eclipses encourage communication, from the deeply personal to the purely professional. Listen carefully to all that's being said and you will access previously hidden information.

GEMINI The eclipses continue to emphasize finances, but they also bring to light differing value systems. Rather than assume everyone agrees on what's important, step back and assess what truly matters to your partners.

CANCER The eclipses part the veils on several key relationship themes. Whether it is respect or affection, contemplate how you can treat all your relations, including yourself, with greater care.

LEO The eclipse effect keeps the focus on how to balance your innate generosity of spirit and your natural tendency to overextend. Pay close attention to this pattern and you'll gain a profound self-awareness.

VIRGO The eclipses maintain the focus on creative self-expression, particularly in regards to how you can share your gifts with a deeper sense of personal satisfaction.

LIBRA The eclipses offer an opportunity to see just how much family matters to you. And it makes no difference whether you are partnered; this information is all about staying connected to those you love.

SCORPIO The eclipses provide valuable information on how to expand your perspective. It's not that your current view is incorrect; you just need a broader bandwidth that easily incorporates new tools and technology.

SAGITTARIUS The eclipse effect has the potential to reveal what's been keeping you from pursuing your career goals. It also has the power to spark a desire to find more satisfying work.

CAPRICORN The eclipses illuminate the needs of significant others, personal and professional. Use this information to create better boundaries, and you'll experience healthier interactions.

AQUARIUS The eclipse effect provides information on how to convert your ideals into action. Start simple, with one thing you can do each day, and you'll generate steady momentum.

PISCES The eclipses focus on that age-old question of the needs of many versus the needs of one. Consider where you can modify your innate empathy for others so that you have more time for yourself. ●

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For More Info

Ralfee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-537-6264 or write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Ralfee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2008 by Ralfee Finn.

smallbusiness MONTHLY

July 2010 [illegible] Express EastBayExpress.com

Janelle Orsi 34

Manufacturing

Reindustrializing the East Bay

With the collapse of the housing bubble, momentum shifts toward preservation of land suitable for light manufacturing. By Michele Ellson

Bay Curious 32

Retail Stars & Rent

[illegible]

Town Business 38

Oakland Tax Hike?

A proposal by Oakland mayoral candidate Don Perata would give Oakland NorCal's highest sales taxes. [illegible]

Oakland retailers have shown signs of rebounding from the Great Recession in the past several months, particularly small, independent businesses. The local restaurant industry also is flourishing. About 25 new eateries have opened in the city in the past eighteen months. But a proposal being pushed by Oakland mayoral candidate Don Perata could threaten the turnaround. It would raise the city's sales tax by one-half a percentage point, giving Oakland the highest sales tax rate in Northern California at 10.25 percent. However, many retailers and city business leaders are already lining up in opposition to increasing the city's sales taxes. *Story inside*

The Entrepreneurial Lawyer 38

Noncompete Agreements Aren't Legal

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Local businesses help Oakland-based nonprofit get more people out of their cars

By Susanne Handow
Transform
www.transformca.org

Approximately seventy percent of oil in the U.S. is used for transportation. With an oil spill billowing somewhere between 60 and 150 gallons throughout the Gulf of Mexico, Bay Area travelers responded June 1-7 by driving less and walking, biking and taking public transportation more. Participants in the Car-Free Challenge, a fundraising event for TransForm, a nonprofit working for better walking, biking, and public transportation options, set personal low-mileage goals for the first week of June and vowed to drive their cars less. To spur them on, local businesses donated prizes like sports wear, bike gear, hand made pottery and freshly roasted coffee.

TransForm supporter and owner of Scarlet City Roasting, Jen St. Hilaire, says that the Car Free Challenge is in line with her coffee roasting company's goal to contribute to sustainable communities. "We do everything we can to be a green business and support a walkable Bay Area. We're really into what TransForm is doing with the Car-Free Challenge." And the benefits for small businesses aren't just environmental: "more people walking, biking and taking public transportation instead of driving means more people engaging with local businesses like ours." Other local businesses were also on board: NextBus, Sports Basement, Clif Bar, Patagonia, Jared's Pottery and Manifesto Bicycles are just a few others who also pitched in.

Jen St. Hilaire, Scarlet City Roasting

According to the Car-Free Challenge website, the clarion-call for better transportation options couldn't be more timely, not only because of Deep Water Horizon. Under new state law SB 375, California regions must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by improving transportation choices and how communities are designed so they require less driving. "Right now, leaders are deciding by how much metropolitan regions will have to reduce their emissions by 2020 and 2035 through better transportation and land use. We need them to aim high."

Car-Free Challengers collectively reduced their car travel miles to two thousand and traveled more than twelve thousand miles via transit, bike and on foot. St. Hilaire will do her part to keep the spirit of the Challenge alive. "This summer, we plan to launch a beans by bike delivery option for some East Bay customers. We're small enough that we can still manage a portion of our deliveries on foot, by bike and using public transportation."

Transform is a coalition partner of the East Bay Bicycle Coalition and works to create world-class public transportation and walkable communities in the Bay Area. Please visit their website at: ***www.transformca.org***

EAST BAY BICYCLE COALITION
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Buy Curious

Retail Stars and Rental Prospects

Bayfair Center devises a clever program to assist entrepreneurs and recruit tenants. Plus, specialty groceries

By Bernice Young

Ben Wanzo, holding check, won Retail Star

At the end of July, after eight months of competition and business school boot camp, the **Bayfair Center** in San Leandro will crown its **2010 Retail Star**.

The contest has all the makings of a reality TV show: Public presentations of elevator pitches, dramatic elimination rounds, and the winner walks away with $250,000 worth of prizes — including a year's worth of free rent at the mall — to help the aspiring local entrepreneur open up shop.

"A lot of resources are available to participants in the Retail Star program," said **Paul Lundstedt**, an **East Bay SCORE** counselor and a contest judge. "A lot of resources are available to the winner to help them get started. It takes a little pressure off."

This year's finalists include an aromatherapy and candle business, a woman's clothier that would sell customized items, and a wig shop. To get to this phase in the competition, the contestants have fine-tuned their business plans, crafted marketing strategies, and drafted ideas for the store layout — which they presented to a panel of judges in front of an audience at the mall. Along the way, they got help from small business mentors and received four-hour training sessions on each topic.

"You can find areas where you can improve all of the proposals, and the hope is that by pointing out the weaknesses, the contestants can go back and strengthen the plan," said Lundstedt, a former executive with **Kmart** and **Mervyn's**. "Because those people who are not the winner still have good concepts that maybe should go forward."

Last year, during the inaugural Retail Star contest, Oakland resident **Ben Wanzo** wowed the judges with his concept for a cafe-meets-learning center that he called **TEAch Bar**, which opened in December. "You go into cafes and you see individuals studying and doing work all the time," he said. "I thought it was a natural fit to bring a learning lounge and classroom aspect into a cafe and make it a more functional place to work. We added white board walls, collaborative work spaces, we put in sliding glass doors to close off rooms if you really need to focus on what you're doing. We wanted it to be a warm and inviting place, and cafes provide that feeling."

As the winner, Wanzo won prizes such as $25,000 in cash, design and build-out help for the cafe, and a year's free rent at the mall — the very same mall he patronized as a kid. "It is really weird," he said of his return to an old haunt. "But it makes it that much more worth it. I look at the teens in the mall, and I think, 'That used to be me.'"

The contest doesn't just benefit business upstarts like TEAch Bar, of course. **Madison Marquette**, the company that operates Bayfair, has attracted a number of Retail Star contestants to its empty storefronts. "We have 10,000 square feet of rent paying tenants that we met because of the competition," said **Whitney Livingston**, Bayfair's regional director of marketing. "We were trying to address the problem that all shopping center developers were dealing with and we knew at the end of the day we needed to collect rent to stay in business. But along the way, we could also provide entrepreneurs with tools to be successful."

The company developed the contest before reality shows like *Shark Tank* hit the air, and it has been videotaping the contest and the participants. Will we all be watching "America's Next Top Retail Star" next season?

"We are open to all of the possibilities," Livingston said.

Retail Tour

Specialty Ethnic Groceries

Last weekend, **La Borinqueña Mex-icatessen** (582 7th St., Oakland, TamaleGirl.com) celebrated its 66th birthday. Founded by **Tina Ramos' Grandma Rosa**, La Borinqueña started as a corner store selling toilet paper, soap, tortillas, and Latin groceries. An immigrant from Mexico, Grandma Rosa bought the shop on credit against the wishes of her Puerto Rican husband, who was placated when she let him name the business (which Caribbean natives may recognize as a reference to the Puerto Rican national anthem, and which also means "the Puerto Rican woman").

A few years later, the store moved to a new location, adding a bakery where Grandma Rosa started selling her famous homemade tamales. Ramos' parents met thanks to the expansion: her mother helped Grandma Rosa in the shop, and her father-to-be was hired as a baker. The couple bought the store — also on credit — from Grandma Rosa in 1958.

A third move for the business came in 1971, when La Borinqueña was forced to relocate because it fell in the path of the downtown Oakland freeway overpass construction. The Ramos family took that opportunity to develop the business into a restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, as well as a specialty Latin grocery that dispenses tortillas, chili pods, chipotle, spices, and Goya brand canned goods, which are typically impossible to find on the West Coast.

But the tamales are what bring the crowds. "We make them the same way grandma did," said Ramos, who goes by the nickname Tamale Girl. "We slow-grind the corn for the dough in house. It's all made by hand." La Borinqueña also has updated the traditional, and among the six tamale offerings is a vegan potato-green bean stew option and a dessert version where the dough is infused with crushed pineapple, cinnamon and raisins.

Ramos has been taking charge of the register and helping out around the store since she was fifteen, and after a brief hiatus, she returned to help her sister, **Isabel**, take over the family business in 1997. But their mother, **Natividad**, still holds court at La Borinqueña on Saturdays. "I love it when you walk into a business and you say, 'Hi mamma,' and someone from behind the counter can actually answer," Ramos said.

In addition to her passion for feeding people ("I joke that it's the little Latina grandma in my soul," Ramos said), helping to propel her grandmother and mother's efforts forward is what keeps her personally motivated. "That was a big thing for grandma to do, and I'm proud to carry on what she did," Ramos said. "I want to continue that history and figure out how it translates to modern times."

Tokyo Fish Market (1220 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, TokyoFish.net) is another ethnic grocery that started as a family affair. **Larry Fujita**'s parents opened the store in 1963, and over the years, it has garnered a reputation for selling the area's best sashimi-grade fish (the 100 or so varieties of seafood found in the market's 49-foot fish case is now handled by co-owner **Lee Nakamura**, who used to run the fish counter at **Berkeley Bowl**).

The tidy shop is also the place to find all types of Japanese foodstuffs: pickled vegetables, frozen gyoza, miso pastes, natto, and noodles galore. Fujita, who ironically is allergic to shellfish, personally sees to it that the market's produce is fresh by doing the daily fruit and vegetable buying himself, starting at around 5 a.m.

"It's easy to fax in an order or do it by phone, but I would not be happy doing it that way," he said. "Everyone knows I'm picky. We try to keep up the quality. We can't always keep up with the pricing of big stores, but we keep up the quality. That's our niche."

It's apparently an appealing one. During the holidays, the lines used to circle the 1,700-square-foot building, so in 2005 Fujita expanded the business to three times its original size. Three years ago, he installed a deli, where sushi and bento boxes are prepared by the former owners of Yokohama restaurant in El Cerrito.

Fujita said he and his sister **Carolyn** keep the business going in homage to their ninety-year-old mother, who singlehandedly kept everything afloat after her husband died in 1971. "She was tough," Fujita said. "She was here from eight in the morning to 6:30 or seven at night. She got home and still cook meals and do all of the accounting bookwork. She'd stay up late doing that. She'd do the wash on Sundays, the only day the store is closed. I have a lot of respect for what she did. She didn't complain; she just did it."

Zand's (1401 Solano Ave., Albany, ZandPastry.com) is yet another mom-powered enterprise, run by **Monier Attar**, who has two grown children whom she proudly mentions at any opportunity. The shop specializes in Iranian, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean prepared foods and dry goods, including teas, tahini, grape seed oil, spices, and breads.

But the pastries — the decadent pistachio baklava or chocolate eclairs — are a big draw, and here, Attar draws from vast experience. In her native Iran, Attar owned one of Tehran's first French bakeries, but following the Iranian Revolution, the theocratic government closed down her business because she declined to stop serving women who refused to wear a hijab.

Attar and her two young children eventually made it to Berkeley, where she had a brother and an aunt. Four years later, after saving $7,000 by working three part-time *jobs* and babysitting in the evenings, she opened up Zand's in a 500-square-foot Albany storefront.

"My motivation was that I was so homesick," she said of starting her own shop. "It was my dad's idea. He said, 'You are working so hard for other businesses, why don't you do your own?' The first three years were tough. But Iranians didn't have a nice, clean place then and it didn't take long for them to find us."

Zand's expanded to its current location in 2001, and Attar began selling prepared foods, including house-made hummus and falafel and tah chin, an Iranian dish of oven-baked Basmati rice with chicken, saffron, and barberries. Half of Zand's menu consists of Persian fare, with Attar drawing on her own mother's recipes. And once a week, her daughter makes a batch of spanakopita, which is sold at the shop.

Despite the six-day-a-week workweeks, Attar said she's glad she ended up running her business in a town halfway across the globe from her home country. "I love it," she said. "I don't have much free time, but the time I'm working, I'm having fun. I don't look at it as work. I see it as a place I go to see my favorite people."

You don't have to look far in the East Bay to find fine ethnic groceries. Forego a trip to **Trader Joe's** and stroll the aisles of **GB Ratto's** (821 Washington St., Oakland, Rattos.com) for Italian goods, **The Spanish Table** (1814 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, SpanishTable.com) for tasty cured meats, **Indus Food Center** (1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) for Indian spices, and **Nordic House** (2709 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, NordicHouse.com) for a wide array of Scandinavian delicacies.

Retail News

Openings: Gluten-free bakery **Good Chemistry Baking** (3248 Grand Ave., Oakland) with a weekday lunch menu on its way.

Sales: Sizzlin' Summer Sale on July 10 at **Comic Ink** (7980 Amador Valley Blvd., Dublin) featuring raffle drawings for toys and comics. ... Save 20 to 40 percent on closeout items and selected floor samples, and 10 percent on all other furniture, through July 18 at both **Fenton MacLaren** locations (5333 College Ave, Oakland; 1325 San Pablo Ave, Berkeley).

Wilderness Exchange (1407 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley) is going out of business. Clearance sale through mid-July. ●

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Small Business Q&A

Changing the Law for a More Humane Economy

Janelle Orsi's Sustainable Economies Law Center wants to help people share.

By Bernice Young

Chris Duffey

Janelle Orsi of the Sustainable Economies Law Center

Berkeley attorney **Janelle Orsi** is the co-founder of the **Sustainable Economies Law Center** (SELC), which aims to help social enterprises, worker-owned co-ops, and other mission-oriented enterprises sort through legal red tape. The co-author of ***The Sharing Solution***, published by Nolo in 2009, Orsi also has a private legal practice focused on mediation and helping people share housing, cars, land, and other commodities. We talked to Orsi about the legal gray areas that social entrepreneurs can find themselves in and what SELC is doing about them.

What is sustainable economies law? Why did you create a center on this topic?

Jenny Kassan and I founded SELC so we could start to enable a different kind of economy. [Editor's Note: Jenny Kassan is a contributor to this publication.] The economy that we envisioned is not so much based on traditional buying and selling and the owning of things but more on new kinds of transactions like sharing and barter, exchange, cooperative ownership, systems of borrowing, and lending of goods. These are things that — because people are not used to doing them and they're not a part of our normal livelihoods — the legal system is not set up for them, and there are a realm of unanswered questions.

What is SELC currently working on?

We now have four law student interns with us all summer and we are doing a few different things. We're creating a library of resources for urban agriculture, and answering common legal questions for people doing urban ag — for example, how to get land, how to overcome zoning barriers, how to deal with liability issues and insurance, whether there can be property tax incentives for growing in urban areas, how you can sell food you grow in your yard, how a for-profit urban farm can use volunteer labor because they often do but it often violates labor law. We've taken on a few clients, and a handful of organizations that do urban farming have come us for consultations.

What other issues does SELC work on?

We have five programs. Another program involves helping set up worker-owned cooperatives. We also have a program called Community-Supported Entrepreneurship that deals with questions like, "How can a small local business finance themselves using local resources rather than venture capitalists or angel investors?" We are creating a FAQ about how to raise money creatively for a small business, and we are looking into ways that businesses can raise money using gift certificates, or through a subscription to a farmer's season of harvest, to use an urban ag example.

One thing that Jenny and the interns did is write a letter to the **Securities and Exchange Commission** requesting an exemption from securities laws for investments under $100. So say I wanted to start a coffee shop and I need $20,000 to get it going. I could put the word out on the Internet or through friends to get 200 people to invest $100. If the SEC responds positively to our letter and allows small businesses to get small investments, it could revolutionize how businesses raise money. And the people who provide the funding would become investors and own a piece of the business: they would have some equity in it. Right now, there are very few exceptions that allow people to raise money in that way and in order to do it, you have to go through a huge compliance hurdle that involves lots of disclosures, and which costs a lot of money.

The fourth program deals with local currencies and barter. We're creating a how-to guide to bartering because there are two legal issues. One is tax issues, and knowing when you are and are not obligated to pay taxes on a barter transaction. We're trying to develop guidelines for that. The other legal issue is employment laws. If for example you work in exchange for food, then under typical labor and employment laws, you are technically considered an employee, even if you do it voluntarily. The farm owner could be on the hook for not following employment laws.

We are also dealing with a gigantic question around local currencies and how to regulate them. We have a client, **Davis Dollars**, where they've printed local currency for the city of Davis, and they've gotten businesses on board with accepting it. That gives people an incentive to spend locally and they make the local currency cheaper than cash, so $10 Davis Dollars costs $9.50. They are putting more money in circulation in a small way. There are different legal issues — whether the administrators qualify for tax exemption because they would like to be a nonprofit, and whether this organization is technically a bank and should be regulated like a bank. We are doing a survey of how currencies around the world are structured and how they comply with regulations. We haven't really found a good model yet for a local currency system. This is a huge area that needs a

Ask Barbara J. Lippard

Berkeley's Barbara J. Lippard is a counselor at East Bay SCORE, a local branch of the national organization that provides free small business mentoring and training. Prior to her retirement, Lippard was an investment manager for Time, Inc.'s Venture Capital Group, and an executive for Selling Areas-Marketing Inc., a division of Time, Inc. Lippard currently serves on SCORE's national board of directors. To submit your questions to Barbara J. Lippard, e-mail them to Bernice.Young@EastBayExpress.com by Friday, July 16.

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lot of attention.

Our fifth program relates to housing. We call it the Shared, Sustainable, and Slow Housing program, and we want to create more resources to help develop affordable housing and create shared housing arrangements. Hopefully we can create a resource library on shared housing.

What should businesses doing this kind of work know that they might not?

Most social entrepreneurs are going to run up against interesting legal questions because they are engaged in an activity that puts them in a legal gray area, such as the gray area between who is the employer and who is the employee when you're running a worker-owned co-op. There are a whole list of gray areas for social enterprises because it falls into this area of being a nonprofit and a for-profit. In many cases, people will be okay because everyone is happy, and no one tries to bring a lawsuit. But we do want people to do it legally and to be comfortable doing it, and to not run into problems later on.

Is there a reason you are doing this work now?

It feels like there's an explosion of people who are interested in doing these things, partially because of the economy and because people are realizing how much we are destroying the planet, and those things are coming together, causing people to look at alternatives. Urban ag is booming — you see it in the news constantly — and then it feels like the local currencies and barter is starting to grow. And there's the whole movement around social enterprise, and new creative business types have been created to deal with the big barrier related to financing.

What is your ultimate goal?

We want to create tools that will enable a more sustainable and just and sharing alternative economy, and to get those resources out there so that anybody and anyone can tap into these resources and get their questions answered quickly. We'd also like to be more of a voice in the policy-making realm, and identify how policy could be more friendly to things like urban ag and shared housing.

What makes you personally interested in looking at these issues?

It occurred to me that sharing is such a powerful thing because we have this wealth of resources of housing, skills, cars, food, household goods. It's just that the way resources are distributed and used is very inefficient. So sharing makes sense. I formed my law practice to enable people to share, and lot of what I do is help people decide what kind of organization to form if they want to create one to do that. I also help them formalize agreements to, for example, share ownership of a house, and do it without violating the law.

Originally I wanted to work with youth and become a juvenile defender, and I thought I would fight for youth one at a time and keep them out of the system. And then I realized that working in the community to provide stable housing, work opportunities, learning opportunities, creating organizations and alternative economic options is what is actually going to keep them out of juvenile hall. ●

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Productivity Tips for Small Business Owners and Employees

by Mhalo Sullivan, Janus Networks

Small business owners and employees are often some of the busiest people in our economy. With that in mind, here are some productivity tips recommended (in some form or another) by many of today's productivity gurus.

Don't keep your to do list in your head

Keeping your to do list in your head, in any amount, means you will be thinking and worrying about it (even if only subconsciously) when you are doing something else or just trying to relax. Make a to do list for all the different projects you are working on, and take the time to empty your head of all that needs to be done for them. You should also have to do lists for calls, things to buy, agenda topics to discuss with others, lingering questions etc. Clear your mind of all to-dos at least once a week. Train yourself to jot down to-dos that come up in the appropriate place, instead of trying to keep them in your head.

Examine short and long term goals weekly

What are your short term and long term goals and how can you measure if you are getting there? In today's hyper speed world, it can be easy to loose track of the bigger picture. Most productivity experts recommend taking a weekly inventory of where you are, evaluating where you want to be and adjusting priorities if necessary. Here is a guide for examining your immediate actions through your long term goals.

- What are your current actions? This is essentially your to do list. What has been completed? What needs to be added? What needs to be scheduled?
- What are your current projects? How is each project progressing? What can be done to make the progress better?
- What are your areas of responsibility? These could be areas like administrative support, staff development, market research etc. Reviewing your areas of responsibility gives a better, bigger picture for examining your projects and actions.
- What are your goals? What do you want to accomplish or experience in one to two years? What might you need to adjust to get there?
- What is your five year vision? What decisions might you need to make to get there? What might you need to put in motion to make the vision a more achievable reality?

Conquer your inbox

- Set aside time(s) in a day to process email, dealing with email in small chunks throughout the day is best. It will take some discipline and possibly some time for you and your co-workers to adjust, but it is worth the effort.
- If you do have a drop everything email, go ahead and deal with that email, but only with that email. The difficult part is not be controlled by messages that aren't really urgent.
- If you can answer an email or complete a task associated with an email in less than five minutes, do it when you open the email.
- Divide emails you can't address in five minutes into categories. Here are some common categories: action to be taken today, action to be taken later (then schedule a time), action to be taken someday (place in its own specific file), action to be delegated, reference materials and trash.

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Noncompete Agreements Are Also Nonlegal

There is a right way and a wrong way to protect yourself from former employees becoming competitors.

By Jenny Kassan

You hire Joe to work for you. After learning everything he can, he quits and starts a similar business. He also hires several of your other employees and lures away some of your best customers. Is this legal? Is there anything you can do to prevent this from happening? Many employers think that the best way to protect themselves from this is to have all their employees sign a noncompete agreement. Such agreements are very common, but they are not generally legal in California.

Noncompete agreements typically include provisions like this: After termination of his employment, *[employee]* agrees, for a period of *[number]* years within a *[number]*-mile radius of *[company and location]*, not to engage or participate in, directly or indirectly, any business which is, or as a result of such engagement or participation would become, competitive with *[company]* and, directly or indirectly, in a competitive manner with any customers doing business with *[company]* or solicit any employee of *[company]* to become an employee of anyone other than *[company]*.

Section 16600 of the **California Business and Professions Code** states that "every contract by which anyone is restrained from engaging in a lawful profession, trade, or business of any kind is to that extent void." There are some very limited exceptions to this rule involving the sale of a business or the dissolution of a partnership. The reason for this rule, which dates back to 1872, is the state's policy of protecting its citizens' right to pursue the employment of their choice. Even very narrow restraints on a person's ability to freely pursue her profession have been struck down by the California courts.

Does this mean that there is nothing an employer can do to protect herself from someone like Joe? Happily, the answer is no.

There is a legal way — the protection of trade secrets — to prevent former employees from using what you taught them against you. Under California law, a trade secret is defined as information whose value is at least partly derived from being not generally known. Trade secrets can be lists of customer leads, a method for completing a certain task, a financial plan, the existence of negotiations, or software code. For something to be considered a trade secret, you must make reasonable efforts to keep it confidential. Even information that you think of as secret may not be seen that way if it is not difficult or particularly time-consuming to acquire.

An employer is within her rights under California law to take steps to prevent a former employee from using trade secrets to compete with her. But employers should take the following steps:

Identify all the information that you would not want your competitors to have. Take steps to keep it confidential — keep it password protected, keep it under lock and key, stamp it "confidential." Add a section to your employee handbook explaining your policy for keeping certain information confidential. Have all employees sign a confidentiality agreement upon starting their employment. Make sure all employees understand and acknowledge in writing what is confidential.

Is your list of customers a trade secret? That depends. Do you boast about it on your website? If so, it obviously isn't a secret, and if an employee quits and solicits all your customers there would be no violation of trade secret law. On the other hand, if your customer list is kept confidential, was developed by lengthy and expensive efforts, and contains nonpublic information, it may be a trade secret. However, some courts have held that a former employee can send an announcement to customers he worked with to let them know he switched jobs — this is called the "professional announcement" exception. The former employee will not be found to have violated trade secret law as long as the customers make their own decision to switch without being affirmatively solicited.

What about solicitation of your current employees by a former employee? Employers may prohibit former employees from using confidential information such as salaries and performance reviews to select employees. In fact, even general prohibitions on solicitation of former co-workers for a limited period of time have been upheld by the courts. For example, the following provision was upheld: "*[former employee]* shall not disrupt, damage, impair or interfere with his former employer by raiding its work-staff for the one-year period following termination." However, an agreement that prohibits a former employer from hiring former coworkers who apply of their own volition would not be enforceable.

Even if you do everything you can to protect your secrets, you still cannot, under state law, prevent a former employee from competing against you and soliciting your employees and customers, as long as they don't use your trade secrets to do so. Some employers try to use confidentiality agreements to accomplish what they wish they could accomplish with a noncompete agreement. Courts generally see through these attempts. For example, in a recent case, an employer argued that former employees violated trade secret law by soliciting customers on the employer's confidential customer list. The court disagreed because "the names of ... existing customers were readily available ... from independent third party sources."

This is yet another reason why so many business owners throw up their hands in disgust and say, "Ugh! California law is always such a hassle to deal with!" But the idea behind the prohibition on noncompete agreements is actually pretty smart: employers can hire the best people they can find without having to worry that they are violating a noncompete agreement. And besides, isn't complicated onerous law a small price to pay for living in such wonderful place? ●

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Crafting an Elegant Exit Strategy

The art before the sale of your small business.

By Jonathan DeYoe

Money generally winds up in one or more places after the sale of a business: the pocket of the seller, the family of the seller, the seller's favorite charity and government coffers. The primary aim of most sellers is to allocate a significant amount of the proceeds to personal accounts that will help fund day-to-day expenses and realize lifelong dreams. But if the seller also wants family or charity to reap rewards from the sale of a successful company, there is ample opportunity to minimize the tax-man's share. However, certain steps need to be taken long before the keys are surrendered to the new owner and money changes hands.

Maximizing the useful capital and minimizing the tax hit from the sale of a business requires strategic thinking and careful consideration. The seller should have a clear picture of how the proceeds will be used and who she'd like to see benefit, so that the transaction is structured with these goals in mind. Integrating deal terms with one's estate and philanthropic goals offers significant advantages, but many elements contribute to a successful transfer, so business owners should give themselves at least three to five years lead time. I call this advanced planning "the art before the sale."

When a small business owner sits down to negotiate the sale of a company, the primary focus often is maximizing the sales price. Many sellers believe that a higher dollar figure will translate into greater satisfaction and a bigger personal bank account. While this makes emotional sense, there are some common sense reasons why this may not be the case.

For example, many sellers agree to accept some payment in the form of stock or future revenue in exchange for a higher purchase price. But by agreeing to accept less cash today in the anticipation of more cash tomorrow, the seller is taking an additional risk. Unfortunately, capitalism is replete with examples of mergers that didn't work as their architects intended, so sellers and not just buyers should beware. Revenues from a once-thriving business could plummet due to a flagging economy or missteps by the new owners, or the acquiring company could flounder or fail, leaving the stock worthless. This is why I recommend that business owners consider how to best maximize the total value they will realize from the sale, and not just the total price.

There are many investment tools designed to maximize the value of assets transferred to family. One I find particularly useful is the **"Grantor Retained Annuity Trust,"** which allows a business owner to avoid being taxed twice if they sell their business and then leave the proceeds to their family. First, the business owner must grant a minority share of a privately held business to a trust created for the ultimate benefit of the family. Thereafter, a proportionate share of company profits will go to the trust and not the owner, while the owner receives in exchange from the trust a fixed payment for a fixed term — usually not more than five years. The upside is that at the end of the term, the value left in the trust is passed to the grantor's heirs without gift tax, although the grantor remains responsible for any income or capital gains inside the trust. The grantor's estate also will be entitled to a tax break on the value of the business transferred to the trust.

If the company grows steadily and the owner eventually negotiates an attractive sale price, the grantor retained annuity trust will serve as a good tool for maximizing the value of the business to the heirs. But if the company experiences very rapid growth and commands an even higher sales price than expected, establishing a grantor retained annuity trust could prove to be a *fantastic* tool for such a transfer. One caveat: These trusts may not be suitable for businesses unlikely to experience annual growth exceeding the fixed payment an owner can receive during the term of the trust, which is currently set by the US Treasury at little more than 4 percent. Business owners should consult with their attorney and tax professional to see if this makes sense for them.

When the business entity is a **C-Corporation** and philanthropy is one of the owner's primary goals, a **"Charitable Trust"** is another planning tool that can magnify the value realized from a business transition. Transferring a share of the business into a charitable trust prior to a sale can support philanthropic goals while also providing significant tax advantages. This solution works best if the owner's current assets combined with some fraction of the proceeds from the eventual sale are enough to meet the family's long-term spending needs. During the owner's lifetime, an income-stream may be drawn from the trust, with the remainder reverting to the designated charity following the owner's death.

The tax benefits alone can make this strategy very worthwhile. If the owner of a C-Corporation transfers shares of a privately held company into a charitable trust, he receives a current income tax deduction. When the owner subsequently sells the business, the shares held inside the charitable trust can be liquidated without incurring capital gains. In other words, transferring shares of the business to a charitable trust may help the business owner neutralize capital gains from the sale, reduce current and future income-tax obligations, and create a lifetime income stream. However, there are many intricacies involved in establishing a charitable trust, so consulting with an attorney and CPA is essential to determining whether this is a viable option.

Engaging in the art before the sale will help a small business owner maximize the value realized from the sale of a successful company. It takes plenty of time to create a masterpiece, though, so I recommend allowing at least three to five years to craft an elegant exit strategy. ●

Jonathan DeYoe is a certified private wealth advisor and an LPL Financial registered principal. Securities and financial planning offered through LPL Financial, member FINRA/SIPC and a registered investment advisor. This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal or tax advice. Consult your attorney or accountant for such advice to determine what is appropriate for your situation. DeYoeWealthManagement.com

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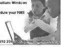

New Tax Threatens Small Businesses

A proposal by Oakland mayoral candidate Don Perata would give Oakland the highest sales tax rate in Northern California.

By Robert Gammon

Oakland retailers have shown signs of rebounding from the Great Recession in the past several months, particularly small independent businesses. The local restaurant industry also is flourishing. About 25 new eateries have opened in the city in the past eighteen months. But a proposal being pushed by Oakland mayoral candidate **Don Perata** could threaten the turnaround. It would raise the city's sales tax by one-half a percentage point, giving Oakland the highest sales tax rate in Northern California at 10.25 percent.

Perata has proposed the tax hike as way to help balance the city's budget and avoid laying off more police officers. The **Oakland City Council** voted last week to lay off eighty cops after the police union refused to contribute to its pension plan like other city employee unions. A sales tax increase is projected to raise up to $26 million a year, and the ex-state senator is proposing it be put before voters as a mail-in ballot measure in September or as a regular measure in November.

But many retailers and city business leaders are already lining up in opposition to raising sales taxes. They say it could wreck the fragile economic turnaround and pull the plug on small businesses that have not yet begun to recover. "It's really, really distressing," said **Amy Thomas**, owner of **Pendragon Books** on College Avenue. "It's so ill-conceived. To not understand what kind of problems this will create is unconscionable."

Randy Reed, co-owner of **Reed Brothers Security** on Telegraph Avenue, agrees. "We've really worked hard convincing people that it's okay to shop Oakland," Reed said. "This sends the wrong message. I think it's a mistake."

In an interview, **Larry Tramutola**, Perata's campaign manager, contended that there is no evidence that raising the sales tax will harm local businesses. "There is no proof of that at all," he said. He also noted that raising the sales tax only requires a majority vote while a parcel tax favored by some city officials would need a two-thirds vote to pass. "A parcel tax is dead in the water," he said.

Currently, California's basic sales tax rate is 8.25 percent. State law allows municipalities to charge up to 2 percentage points above the basic rate, according to the **California Board of Equalization**, the state's taxing agency. At 9.75 percent, Oakland already has the highest sales tax rate in Northern California. But it's the same rate charged by all other cities in the county — including Alameda, Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, and San Leandro. Perata's proposal, however, would push Oakland's rate to 10.25 percent — higher than every other city in the Bay Area.

There is a chance that state lawmakers will allow a 1 percentage point sales tax hike implemented in April 2009 to lapse next summer. The basic state rate would then return to 7.25 percent, meaning Perata's proposal would put Oakland's tax rate at 9.25 percent — lower than the current rate but still higher than all other cities in Northern California.

Tramutola argues that because of the anti-tax fervor statewide, Sacramento lawmakers will allow the 1 percentage point sales tax hike to sunset. And he contends that, as a result, other Bay Area municipalities will likely raise their sales tax rates as well. "Other cities are going to do it if Oakland doesn't do it," he said.

But Oakland City Administrator **Dan Lindheim** said it's not clear what's going to happen in Sacramento. He also is concerned that other cities might capitalize on Oakland's higher sales tax rate. "If we're at 10 and nobody else is at 10, then I can see all kinds of campaigns by people outside of the Oakland saying, 'Come shop with us. Our sales taxes are lower.'"

Lindheim said that besides a parcel tax, city officials are seriously looking at increasing other tax rates, including the utility tax, because they are currently lower than other Bay Area jurisdictions. Raising the city tax rates on telephones, water, and garbage could generate as much money as hiking the sales tax by one-half percentage point, he said.

Moreover, higher utility taxes would not impact small local businesses like a sales tax potentially could. And they're less likely to harm Oakland city revenues overall, while a higher sales tax could dampen proceeds if it prompts consumers to shop in other cities or online. Lindheim, in fact, questions whether having the highest sales tax rate in the region would generate as much money as Perata hopes.

> Oakland City Administrator Dan Lindheim is concerned that other cities might capitalize on Oakland's higher sales tax rate

In addition, sales taxes are generally considered more regressive. That's because low- and middle-income families typically spend a higher percentage of their money on things that are subject to sales taxes, such as food and clothing.

Utility taxes also would only require a majority vote to pass — as long as the city doesn't promise to spend the revenues on police. However, the same is true of a sales tax increase. If the city was to tell voters that it's for public safety, then it also would require a two-thirds supermajority to pass. But the reality is that a large portion of any tax increase, regardless of what is promised to voters, would go to public safety, since 75 percent of Oakland's general fund budget goes to police and fire.

Robert.Gammon@EastBayExpress.com

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Rebuilding Manufacturing

With the collapse of the housing bubble, momentum shifts toward preservation of land suitable for light industry

By Michael Ellison

Mandela Parkway is ground zero for Oakland City Councilwoman **Nancy Nadel**'s vision of maintaining an industrial base in Oakland. Amidst the tangled patch of homes and hulking brick and tin buildings that line the well-manicured street and its neighbors, she believes her efforts to preserve land that could be populated with new industrial uses and the jobs they'll bring are beginning to bear fruit.

The old **Carnation** plant at the corner of Mandela Parkway and 14th Street has been revitalized as a new space, housing dishwasher maker **Auto-Chlor System**, with others to come. Among those who have considered being part of the rebirth, Nadel said, are **Children's Hospital** and **The California Endowment**.

"We have a lot of interest," said the councilwoman, who helped craft city policies that saved hundreds of acres of industrial land from being gobbled by housing developers. Nadel believes that Oakland has a lot to offer in the form of proximity to suppliers, an airport, the **Port of Oakland**, and the Bay Bridge.

The city is set to embark on a two-year visioning process to work out what to do with West Oakland's industrial sites. Nadel's own vision jettisons old uses like steel plants and plating companies for new ones like biotech, food production, and fashion, which she hopes will be better neighbors than their predecessors.

"It's going to be different industries," she said.

Manufacturing in the United States has been on the decline for the last decade, a slide that has been mirrored in California. But policymakers across the East Bay are hopeful they can start bringing those jobs back. They're working to preserve old industrial sites to provide homes for new industries like clean technology, and they are banding together to lower some of the hurdles that have driven manufacturing jobs out of the region and state.

"One of the challenges we've had here in the region a long time is that we're great at the entrepreneurial side, and the R&D side," said **Sean Randolph**, president and chief executive officer of the **Bay Area Council Economic Institute**. "But capturing the full value of that early investment, we're not so good at."

Still, Randolph notes that the region has experienced some successes in retaining manufacturing jobs as of late, including Bayer's decision to locate a new plant in Berkeley and a much-ballyhooed deal between electric carmaker **Tesla Motors** and **Toyota** to keep at least a portion of Fremont's **New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc.** plant in use.

State land-use policy has long favored housing over job creation, and the housing boom created an intense economic imperative to build homes on top of old industrial sites, which were a cheap source of land. But now that the market has cooled, some cities are heading in the opposite direction.

Alameda is in the process of deciding how to redevelop its former Naval Air Station. City leaders had once favored building a mixed-use development there with more than 4,800 homes. But now some are saying they'd like to see some light industry return.

"I think it's a growing market," Alameda City Councilman **Frank Matarrese** said. "We can get startups, midlevel manufacturers, or small manufacturers. We can fill that niche."

Manufacturing

Matarrese is hoping to build on existing industries that are leasing space out at **Alameda Point**, which include maritime uses and wine and specialty beverages produced by **St. George Spirits** and **Rock Wall Wine Company**.

The city has a blueprint for that model in its **Harbor Bay Business Park**, which is home to medical device makers **Abbott Diabetes Care** and catheter makers **Penumbra**, and a burgeoning food industry that includes **Semifreddi's** bakery, **Donsuemor** cookies, and **Peet's Coffee & Tea**.

Councilwoman Nancy Nadel has fought to save West Oakland's industrial zoning [illegible]

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Chris Duffey

West Oakland is known for its seemingly random juxtaposition of residential and industrial uses.

The business park offers good road access for trucks and a buffer between businesses and homeowners who often aren't thrilled with the idea of trucks rumbling down residential streets at 3 a.m. And city officials shut down an effort by a local developer to build houses on land that would have brought an existing residential neighborhood closer to businesses, out of concern that resident complaints could drive those businesses away.

Nadel said she's hoping that Oakland's rezoning efforts will offer the chance to undo what she calls the "patchwork" of zoning that has packed industry next to homes.

The truck traffic created by industrial uses has caused high levels of asthma in West Oakland's children, she said. "I really felt we needed to do better planning than we did in the past," she said.

For example, one recycling plant backs up to **Cole Middle School** on Union Street. And the block-long **American Steel** building, which now houses an art studio, sits across Mandela Parkway from several blocks of houses. But newer condos and apartments are set as bookends to the old industrial monoliths, at either end of Mandela.

In addition to their individual efforts, cities are banding together to make a regional play for new manufacturing jobs. Eight East Bay cities, several colleges and universities, and the **Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory** have teamed up to form the **East Bay Green Corridor** partnership, which they hope will provide a bridge between academic research and development efforts and the manufacturing and production of their discoveries.

"We're applying a 'cradle to scale' strategy for green business growth, taking a targeted approach with economic development directors and the real estate community to match space needs with land parcels in the Green Corridor," said **Carla Din**, the partnership's director. "The more value we can place on industrial lands for things like clean-tech manufacturing and demonstrate their potential to create long-term, high-quality jobs in high-growth sectors, the more likely it will be retained."

Din noted that San Leandro has retained 90 percent of its industrial lands, and that much of the "clean technology" the partnership is working to bring here requires space for light manufacturing and assembly.

Randolph said the Bay Area has lots to offer manufacturers: a huge market, a strong research and development base, and good connectivity to the rest of the world. But he also noted that California imposes costs that other states don't, like a tax on manufacturing equipment, and more regulations than other states. Those cost factors, coupled with higher productivity and efforts to move manufacturing bases closer to customers here and overseas, have reduced the number of manufacturing jobs in California, Randolph said.

Still, the Bay Area is seeing some industry clusters emerge, including biofuels here in the East Bay and a "small but real" solar generation cluster in the South Bay. And he believes that other industries could produce manufacturing jobs locally if the price, availability of land and workers, and other conditions are right. "There needs to be some real thinking about what would be compelling to have it done here," Randolph said.

Berkeley's success in winning the Bayer plant could prove a case study for those efforts. The company, which already had a manufacturing base in Berkeley, was looking to build a space to manufacture the blood coagulate **Kogenate**. And it was considering whether it made sense to set up shop in a lower-cost area, recalled **Michael Caplan**, Berkeley's economic development manager.

Then Berkeley worked with the state, **Pacific Gas & Electric**, the **East Bay Economic Development Alliance**, and others to put together a package of incentives to entice Bayer to set up its new plant in Berkeley — along with its 1,600 jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenue. Caplan won the okay of city leaders in Oakland to extend that city's enterprise zone, earning Bayer state tax and hiring credits. The utility also offered concessions. Bayer now is Berkeley's largest private sector employer.

Caplan said the group effort was an outgrowth of the Green Corridor partnership's efforts. "What we've done is begin to talk to each other about a whole range of policy and program missions, and this was another way for us to do that," he said.

Of course, UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley Lab have a pipeline of new technologies, and Caplan said that several new large-scale research institutes are in the works. And as those efforts "scale up," they could make their way along the hoped-for Green Corridor, dropping a wealth of new green jobs in their wake.

"It'll be an interesting thing, if we can build out an industrial paradigm around green businesses, green industry," Caplan said. ■

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

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Chris Duffey

A new development at 14th and Mandela Parkway has attracted interest.

Skills&Schmoozing

Susan Bierzychudek

Branding: Tell Me Something Good

Susan Bierzychudek will bolster your business with the power of words

It's been said that storytelling is the oldest and most essential form of human communication. It is, after all, vital to everyone from parents to politicians. And for businesses, it's a powerful tool that can strengthen brand identity and the connection between buyer and business. "Storytelling is about transforming 'this is what I do' into 'this is why I do it and this is why it's important in your lives,'" explained **Susan Bierzychudek**, a consultant. "It's about providing an emotional context for the functional deliverables of your brand."

Bierzychudek knows what she's talking about: She's been working in the branding business for some 25 years and is now the principal of **Green Ideals**, a San Anselmo-based consulting firm. On Tuesday, July 13, she'll be bringing her expertise to **Numi Tea Garden** (2230 Livingston St., Oakland) with a lecture titled "**Brand Storytelling: The Tool That Will Transform Your Business.**" The event — which is being put on by the **Sustainable Business Alliance**, a professional group for socially conscious businesses in the Bay Area — will cover the elements, benefits, and fine points of brand storytelling.

"The bottom line is that a well-told brand story will increase a company's profitability dramatically, because your target audience understands that you share their values. This is especially important for socially conscious businesses, she said, because their consumers tend to be driven by values. "It's the most important thing any company can do to improve their profitability." 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. $15 for SBA members with pre-registration, $20 for non-members with pre-registration, $22 at the door. SmallBusinessAlliance.org

— *Ellen Cushing*

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Classes & Workshops

8 Ways to a Brand Business and The Power of Storytelling Networking and a seminar with the Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce. Space is limited, registration required. Tue., July 13, 8-9:15 a.m. Free. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1111 Civic Dr. #1113, Walnut Creek. 925-934-2007.

Adult Literacy Tutoring Tutoring, classes, and computer literacy [illegible] for people ages 16 or older who read below the eighth grade level. Saturdays. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. Second Start Adult Literacy Program, 1801 Adeline St., Oakland.

Bankruptcy Lawyer in the Library Lottery sign-up begins at 5:45. Wed., July 21, 6-8 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-5334. OaklandLibrary.org.

Basics of Applying for Jobs Online Workshop covering the basic computer skills needed to apply for jobs online. Thu., July 8, 3-4:15 p.m. Free. Antioch Library, 501 W. 18th St., Antioch. 925-757-9224.

Brand Storytelling: The Tool That Will Transform Your Business With Susan Bierzychudek, president of Green Ideals Branding & Marketing Group. More information at SustainableBusinessAlliance.org. Tue., July 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. $15-$22. Numi Tea Garden, 2230 Livingston St., Oakland. 877-680-4832.

Brand Saving Skills Workshops [illegible]

Anna Griffin Workshop [illegible] in Spanish on June 30 and in English on July 1. Wed., June 30, 10:30 a.m.-noon; Thu., July 1, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Free. Habitot Children's Museum, 2065 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-647-1111. Habitot.org.

Workshop: Basics in Cantonese and Mandarin Wednesdays, Thursdays, Sundays. Continues through Dec. 31. [illegible] Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

Defeating Workplace Distraction Author and consultant Robert Shor [illegible] the many forms of corporate distraction, as well as what managers can do to improve individual and collective productivity and focus. Thu., July 22, 5:30-8:30 p.m. $15-$35. Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette. 925-299-1853.

E-mail Basics Workshop For beginners. Sign up in advance at www.opportunityjunction.org/events or call 925-776-1133. Tue., July 20, 6-9 p.m.; Wed., July 21, 6-9 p.m.; Thu., July 22, 6-9 p.m. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 118. OPTIC-CC.org.

Excel Workshop For those with some computer experience. Sign up in advance at www.opportunityjunction.org/events or call 925-776-1133. Tue., July 13, 6-7:30 p.m.; Tue., Aug. 24, 6-7:30 p.m. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 118. OPTIC-CC.org.

Export/Import Workshop For entrepreneurs looking to start or strengthen their import/export business. Register at EastBaySCORE.org. Thu., July 15, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. [illegible] Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

Free Tax Preparation and Filing Assistance for Low-Income Antioch Also filing 2007, 2008 and 2009 tax returns. [illegible] registration required at www.opportunityjunction.org/taxes. Every other Friday, 6 p.m. Continues through Sept. 11. Free. Opportunity Junction, Delta Community Technology Center, Antioch. 925-776-1133 ext. 118. OPTIC-CC.org.

Managing Employment Issues in a Down Economy and Workshop for Good Times Workshop focusing on best strategies and legal requirements for reducing your workforce in the recession, as well as for making new hires once the economy improves. Wed., July 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. $30. Embassy Suites, 1345 Treat Blvd., Walnut Creek.

One Size Fits One: Surviving a World of Mass Customization [illegible] [illegible] helping managers accommodate individual needs in the workplace through customization. With [illegible] speaker Jennifer Neely. Wed., July 14, 12-1 p.m. $15 general, $25 NCHRA members. ADP, 4125 Hopyard Road, Pleasanton.

QuickBooks "Brown Bag" Workshop With Kathee Hartley of [illegible] Consulting. Tue., July 13, 12-1 p.m. Free. Walnut City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda.

Resume Writing Tutor With Contra Costa [illegible] Stewart. Registration required. Thu., July 15, 2-3:30 p.m. Free. Ygnacio Valley Library, 2661 Oak Grove Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-938-0481. www.ccclib.org/[illegible]

Retail Basics Workshop covering the basics of opening and operating a retail business. Topics included are merchandise selection and organization, sales projection, and managing inventory. Register at EastBaySCORE.org. Thu., July 8, 3:45-5:45 p.m. $26.50. Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

San Francisco Business Times Health Care Summit CEOs from Kaiser, Blue Shield, and more discuss the future of the industry and the impact of health care reform on providers and insurers. Tue., July 13, 7:30-11:15 a.m. $70. Hilton San Francisco, 333 O'Farrell St., San Francisco.

SEO and Brand Word of Mouth Part of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce's Bonus Networking Speaker Series. With Goodle Cowan, author of *Search Engine Optimization: An Hour a Day*. Thu., July 8, 6-30 p.m. $16 for Berkeley Chamber of Commerce members, $20 for non-members. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-7000. BerkeleyCityClub.com

Small-Business Counseling One-on-one counseling with East Bay SCORE. Registration [illegible]. Mondays, Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] & Managing Your Small Business Topics covered will include legal and [illegible] rules, business planning, and more. Register at EastBaySCORE.org. Thu., July 8, 8:15 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $47.85. Cal State East Bay's Oakland Professional Development Center, 1000 Broadway St., Oakland.

Straight Talk: Dealing with Entitlement in the Workplace For managers hoping to assess and address issues of entitlement in the workplace. With management consultant Christine Silver. Thu., July 15, 8:30-9:30 a.m. $35 general, $25 [illegible] members. John F. Kennedy University, 100 Ellinwood Dr., [illegible], 925-969-3300.

Teen's Tech Talk: Twitter Covering the personal and professional use of [illegible]. Tue., July 6, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. $20 suggested. [illegible] Chamber of Commerce Conference Room, 2181 1st Street, Livermore.

Networking

Round Hill Rotary Club Lunch meeting for business and community leaders. Guests welcome. Call Al Nichols at 925-820-8847 for more info. Wednesdays, noon. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Round Hill Country Club, 3169 Round Hill Rd., Alamo, 925-934-8211, RHCountryClub.com.

American Society of Home Inspectors, Inc. Golden Gate Chapter Call Cliff Frazier at 707-313-6834 for more info. Second Tuesday of every month, 1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $15-$20. Hs Lordships Restaurant, 199 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-843-2733, www.hslordships.com/

Association of Professional Landscape Designers Open to networking design professionals and [illegible] in the green industry. For info, call Sharon Robbins at 925-872-7129 or e-mail [illegible]. Second Tuesday of every month, 4-6 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $5-$15. [illegible] Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-8153.

[illegible] Gathering: Walnut Creek/Lafayette Chapter Membership Limited to one person per profession. Third Thursday of every month, 10 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. Elk's Lodge Walnut Creek, 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-[illegible].

BDF Networking Group Membership limited to one business per profession. For more info call 925-988-8844, or e-mail [illegible]. First Thursday of every month, 12-1:30 p.m., Third Thursday of every month, 12-1:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. Century 21 [illegible] Valley Realty, 4501 [illegible] Clayton Rd., Concord.

Bagels to Business Networking group of [illegible] word-of-mouth marketing. First Tuesday of every month, 7:30-8:30 a.m., Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-8:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. Noah's Bagels Lafayette, 3518 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette.

[illegible] Wall Street Merchants Association First Saturdays Business Development Workshop [illegible] Meeting held at 4430 [illegible] Blvd. For info, call [illegible]. First Saturday of every month. Continues through Dec. 31. Black Wall Street, International Blvd., Oakland.

Business After Hours [illegible] Chamber of Commerce. With hors d'oeuvres, a bar, and a raffle. Wed., July 14, 5:30-7 p.m. $5 members, $20 nonmembers. Club [illegible], 1252 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible].

[illegible] Commerce Network Networking for business owners who'd like to grow their operations via reciprocal referrals. Membership limited to one person per profession. For more info call [illegible] at 925-260-9018. Second Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 a.m., Fourth Tuesday of every month, 11:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. [illegible], 5131 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-600-0434.

[illegible] Builders First Wednesday of every month, 7 a.m., Third Wednesday of every month, 7 a.m. Continues through Dec. 31. [illegible] Hotel, 6680 Regional St., Dublin, 925-828-[illegible].

[illegible] with Hans, Curt Workington With [illegible] and networking [illegible]. For alumni only. Thu., July 1, 6-9 p.m. $60. Paragon Bar & Cafe, [illegible], Berkeley, 510-[illegible], www.paragonrestaurant.com/

East Bay Women's Network Lunch and networking with group for East Bay women in business. Wed., July 7, 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. $20 members, $35 members at the door, $30 guests. [illegible] Golf Course, Alameda, 510-865-5322.

Investment Philosophers Meetup Second Wednesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. Free. Pyramid Alehouse, 1410 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-946-1520, PyramidBrew.com/alehouse_walnut_creek.php.

Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, [illegible] Mixer With refreshments and cash bar. Wed., July 14, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-1033.

Lunch Business Roundtable Networking event with the Hayward Chamber of Commerce. Fri., July 23, 11:45 a.m. Free. St. Rose Hospital, Sherman Balch Pavilion, 27200 Calaroga Ave., Hayward.

Mixer With [illegible] Chamber of Commerce Wed., July 14, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-1033, [illegible].

Music IT Mixer Networking event for Bay Area music business professionals. Tue., July 13, 6-9 p.m. Free. Club [illegible], [illegible] San Pablo Avenue, [illegible].

Networking Breakfast For members of the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce as well as visitors. Wed., July 14, 8-9 a.m. $35-$50. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7890, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

Networking Mixer With refreshments and a raffle. Thu., July 1, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. [illegible] Sports Bar and Grill, Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, 510-[illegible].

Professional [illegible] Roundtable Networking and discussion involving the issues and opportunities facing businesses today. Tue., July 13, 8-9:15 a.m. Free. Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce, 1777 Botelho Dr. #103, Walnut Creek, 925-934-2007.

San Leandro [illegible] Roundtable RSVP required. Thu., July 22, 11:45 a.m. $25. Englander Sport Pub, 101 Parrott St., San Leandro, 510-357-3571, EnglanderPub.com.

San Ramon Chamber of Commerce Monthly Networking Lunch Network with other professionals and learn about the [illegible] industry with [illegible]. Tue., July 13, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $25 for members, $35 for non-members. Crow Canyon Country Club, 711 Silver Lake Dr., Danville, 925-735-8500, Crow-Canyon.com.

[illegible] With networking and discussion. First Tuesday of every month, 12-1 p.m. Free. [illegible], 2025 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible].

Walnut Creek Chamber of Commerce Coffee Club Meeting Informal coffee [illegible] and discussion about the economy. Wednesdays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Continues through Dec. 1. Free. Edward Jones Investments, 1400 [illegible] Blvd., Suite 200A, Walnut Creek, EdwardJones.com.

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Call for Laney College Alumni to Join the Laney College Alumni Association Perks include advance notice of Laney games and events, plus networking opportunities. To register, call [illegible] at 510-273-[illegible], or [illegible]@peralta.edu. Daily. Free. Laney College, 900 Fallon St., Oakland, 510-834-5740, 510-464-3497, Laney.Peralta.edu.

Peace Corps Info Session: How to Put Your Passion to Work [illegible] Peace Corps Agriculture [illegible] volunteers learn about volunteering with the Peace Corps, and get an overview of the [illegible] process. Tue., July 6, 6-7:15 p.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley, 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Open Houses & Fundraisers

Giving Them What They Want While Getting What You Need: Negotiating [illegible] with business ideas. Wed., June 30, 7:30-8:30 p.m. Free. [illegible] Library, [illegible], 925-[illegible].

Haas Evening and Weekend MBA Program Info Session Learn about the program from faculty, staff and current and former students. Wed., July 28, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. Haas School of Business, 2220 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, 510-642-7582, Haas.Berkeley.edu.

Paralegal Studies Program Association Social Find out about the paralegal profession and UC Berkeley Extension's program. Tue., July 20, 5:30-7 p.m. Free. UC Berkeley Extension, 1995 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-4111, Berkeley.edu.

[illegible] Open House & [illegible] Tasting [illegible] at 5:30 with champagne and light refreshments. Thu., July 15, 3-6 p.m. Free. [illegible] Management, 1990 N. California Blvd., Walnut Creek. ●

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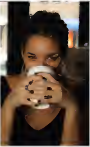

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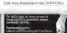
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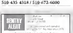
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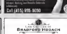
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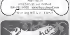
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A smart look at the day's local news.

It's not just the taste. It's the texture. Chris Duffey

PLEASANT DAYS IN PIXARVILLE

Cafe Aquarius brings handcrafted neo-comfort food to Emeryville

By Anneli Rufus

Everyone raves about the lemon-ricotta pancakes at **Cafe Aquarius**. And when everyone raves about something — a CD, a destination, a dish — that you have yet to try for yourself, you either believe it or not. Believe it and you're giddy with anticipation. Don't, and your jaw locks in determination never to be fooled, even about a pancake.

Served on sturdy white plates that contrast their brightness and float-away lightness, Café Aquarius' famed pancakes effect that dappled, dimpled look — that lacy tracery of griddle-gilded brown — that distinguishes artisanal pancakes from monochrome tan Bisquick discs. Strawberry slices form a little hat. Knives and forks don't so much cut the pancakes as suggest that they part — and they do, to vanish upon the tongue like whispers, leaving behind a citrus snap and that barely-cheese ricotta tang. On the plate waits a tiny white syrup jug. One heavenly flapjack down, you realize you've forgotten to use it.

Texture is paramount for owner **Patrick Feehan**, who opened the place in 2007 after many years spent learning the pastry trade: initially at **Grace Baking** in Oakland's **Market Hall**, whose unheated kitchen with its marble-minted oven he calls "bakery boot camp," and later at high-end supermarket chain **Draeger's** and San Francisco's **Ultimate Cookie, Inc.** Feehan came to learn: "It's really all about technique. With baked goods, flavor is the easy part. Texture is the hard part. You could have a nice buttery-tasting croissant, but if it's not prepared with the right temperature control over exactly the right amount of time — some things you can't push — you'll never have a truly fine result."

He carried this philosophy into all foods when he decided to launch his own restaurant. A nationwide search for an executive chef led him to **Marianne Zdobysz**, whose past gigs include Seattle's **Boca**, **Blowfish** and **Madison Park Cafe**. Zdobysz traveled to Argentina to master the wood-fired *parrilla* before opening her own Seattle restaurant, the **Buenos Aires Grill**. (The lemon ricotta pancake recipe is hers.) Feehan chose **Emeryville** because "I didn't want to come into an established neighborhood where there would be a lot of competition," he said. "I wanted a neighborhood with lots of potential." In 2007, Emeryville was a very interesting micro-economic test tube with lots of new companies and construction and new condos selling at the top of the market." That was then. A few thousand layoffs later, Emeryville is more like the village that got left behind when the highway was rerouted.

Nonetheless, Café Aquarius was packed when four of us arrived for brunch. Occupied by the historic Rodoni's 6300 Club from the 1950s to 2002, its totally redesigned low-slung space now looks like the outdoors, indoors — with pebbled floors, black metal garden furniture, and faux ivy festooning brick walls. (In a sense it's always daytime here, as the cafe is open only for breakfast, brunch, and lunch.) Two flatscreen TVs aired sporting programs. Pastries beckoned from a case near the door. The ambience was lively, friendly, casual and warm as we sat down. It remained lively, friendly, casual, and warm while the server forgot to give us menus — and when a second server arrived to take our orders, it was still lively, friendly, casual, and warm half an hour later when the food finally arrived. The second server was exquisitely attentive and apologetic over the delay. Service is not always slow here — but, during peak times, beware.

Tammy declared her sunny-side-up eggs perfectly done, the **Niman Ranch** pastrami in her "Hello hash" piquant and just this side of too-salty. Feehan's objective is not merely comfort food, but the handcrafted, creative neo-comfort food that's been making a comeback in hip venues with pedigreed chefs. It permeates Café Aquarius' seasonally shifting menus in such items as custard-dipped French toast, 3/8-pound burgers, four-cheese mac-and-cheese, personal pizzas, blackened-tilapia sandwiches, and grilled steak with mushrooms and bleu cheese.

This comfort food sensibility infused the savory sautéed potatoes that accompanied our brunch dishes. It informed the hot pocket style in which Tuffy's shiitake-Gruyere omelet was served sealed around the edges, its East-West-fusion filling spilling out like a gift with each stab of the fork. It inspired the addictive sweet-potato hash, an impressionist color-and-flavor mélange spiked with red pepper and caramelized onion. Pure California comfort food was the smooth, tangy Hollandaise sauce cloaking Marc's eggs Benedict — although his dish, with its very-crisp bacon, arrived at an undesirable room temperature. A masterfully frothy Peko-coffee latte raised his spirits.

Few terms fly lower on the radar than "biscuits and gravy." Yet in Zdobysz' hands, this country fare becomes a sausage-studded entity abundant and restorative and bone-jarringly good. Eat this, and you could mine coal or set sail around the world.

Cafe Aquarius

1298 65th St., Emeryville
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Hours: Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-3 p.m.
Sat-Sun 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
No reservations.

Sample Menu

Hello Hash	$9
Eggs Benedict	$10
Biscuits and Gravy	$8
Grilled Steak	$13

Vegan and vegetarian items are in short supply here: Feehan says demand is lower in Emeryville than in Oakland and Berkeley. Nonetheless, many dishes can readily be adapted. I ordered Huevos con Chorizo *sin chorizo*. Fresh tomatoes replaced the flesh in a deceptively simple dish setting cloud-fluffy eggs and crumbly Cotija cheese atop soft house-made white-corn tortillas.

Humble treasures, the tortillas follow a made-from-scratch manifesto that is further embodied by Café Aquarius' soups, sauces, salad dressings, pizza crusts, Puerto Rican-style *pan de agua* bread, and other baked goods — from the very popular eclairs to an orchid-colored blueberry-cheese Danish, its seemingly thousand-layered crust singing choruses of butter and bliss.

And that's an Emeryville kind of bliss: a bit industrial and a bit high tech, a hub of hopes and dreams adrift in history. "The neighborhood is still young and finding its way. Eventually it could be a destination area" — like Berkeley's Fourth Street, Feehan mused. "In the early days, **Bette's** had to build its name in spite of its neighborhood. ●

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[illegible] 7505 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3431 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Ici 2948 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-6054 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Desserts/Ice Cream/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Lalime's 1329 Gilman St., Albany, 510-527-9838, 510-526-1702 (office) (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 820-821 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-2852 (French/Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1110 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-527-4311 (French) $$

Rivoli 1539 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-2542 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$$

[illegible] 1045 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-528-2275 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] Talavera 1561 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-8565 (Mexican) $

Zachary's [illegible] 5852 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

[illegible] Cuisine 2142 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8611 (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers' Market, Berkeley, 510-830-9296 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2199 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035 (Pizza) $

Berkeley Thai House 1458 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6480 (Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790 (American/English/Irish/Bars) $$

Cafe [illegible] 2120 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3290 (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Mexican/Pizza) $$

Cafe Tibet 2020 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5503 (Tibetan) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 1802 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1420 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 1936 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888 (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] Deli 2230 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5544 (Deli) $

[illegible] 2086 Allston Way, Berkeley, 510-225-8055 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 2155 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1858 (Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-9490 (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277 (Brewpub/Pizza/Music Venues/Bars) $$

[illegible] 2100 Shattuck Way, Berkeley, 510-843-3625 (Barbecue) $-$$

[illegible] International Sports Cafe 2050 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-1450 (American/Brewpub) $$

The [illegible] Leaf 1513 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-7500 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] 2068 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0027 (Japanese/Sushi) $

[illegible] Cafe 2504 Shattuck Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0158 (Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 2327 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-541-5850 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Burgers/Sandwiches/Middle Eastern/Mexican/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$$

Yogurt Harmony 2258 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-5981 (Desserts/Ice Cream) $

Zatar 1981 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1981 (California Cuisine/Greek/Turkish/Middle Eastern/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$

Full Reviews Online

About 500 reviews searchable by food, region and price at **EastBayExpress.com** or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

BERKELEY-NORTH

[illegible] Hamburgers 1800 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2881 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cafe [illegible] 1730 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 415-804-4852 ext. 3 (Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

[illegible] 1806 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-7117 (Bakery/Mexican) $

[illegible] 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-5664 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

The [illegible]

[illegible] Collective 1562 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-0065 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

[illegible] 1517 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5525 (downstairs), 510-548-5049 (cafe) (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] 1501 Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley, 510-809-1297 (Italian/Ice Cream/Wine Bars) $$

[illegible] 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 1470 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-7233 (Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-8163 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

[illegible] 2780 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-847-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley, 510-548-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Cafe 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-848-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe [illegible] 2525 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-4368 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe Valparaiso 1815 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3880 (South American) $$

[illegible] 5?? Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0151 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

[illegible] Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-845-2845 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 2911 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-2526 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] 2395 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-356-4080 (Greek/Turkish/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Indian Cuisine 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-841-4118 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Berkeley Bar & Cafe 41 Sunset Rd., Berkeley, 510-540-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 2315 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3640 (American) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

[illegible] Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0550 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Cafe Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Bakery/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Cafe M 1799 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4420 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

[illegible] 1200 65th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0481 (Mexican) $$

[illegible] 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-2322 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] Cafe 5815 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-2662 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

[illegible] 1?12 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-5??? (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] & [illegible] Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8761 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 1250 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 141 Carleton St., Berkeley, 510-845-0964 (Mexican) $-$$

[illegible] 1166 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3255 (Bakery/Pakistani/Afghan/Halal) $

[illegible] Bar-B-Que 2813 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1140 (Barbecue) $-$$

[illegible] Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5882 (Pizza, Just Calzone) $

[illegible] Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221 (American/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] Outdoor and Deli 588 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-0802 (Deli/Seafood) $

[illegible] 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$

[illegible] on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-548-1900 (American/Seafood) $$

[illegible] Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-845-7771 (Seafood) $$$

[illegible] 2380 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-Bar? (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

BUY FRESH BUY LOCAL

Local Food View: Melons

With the 4th of July fast approaching, watermelons are quickly being plucked from gardens, grocery store racks and farmer's markets, sure to be served in juicy wedges alongside the holiday's traditional BBQ and picnic fare. But don't leave the other melons in the dust! Stop by your local farmer's market to find a variety of delicious melons now in season. Cantaloupe, Honeyloupe and Canary melons, as well as lesser known varieties of watermelon like Yellow doll or Orchid will all add new flavor to the 4th.

Happy Independence Day from CAFF!

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Forbidden Island

1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332. This Alameda hotspot takes the tiki-bar concept to a foodie-friendly level with freshly squeezed juices, house-made syrups, and an inventive approach to the rum-and-coconut scene. Opt for the invigorating Mai's mary's Downfall, the frothy fruity Chambordada, or the sweet and spicy Captain's Grog, and you'll be one happy lounge lizard. Snacks include good guacamole and chips and spicy juicy Buffalo chicken bites. (The chicken strips and mozzarella sticks are worth avoiding.) Fabulous wicker/bamboo/grotto/totem-pole setting; there's a comfy patio out back, too. $$

Boilerhouse

1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond, 510-215-6000. The southern end of Richmond's old Ford assembly plant has been converted into an impressive yet casual industrial-chic event space and restaurant where one can dine on good American grub while enjoying beautiful vistas of the harbor, the bay, and the Berkeley hills. Yummy snacks include sliders, drumettes, and sweet potato fries; skirt steak, Cajun shrimp, and a thin-crusted apple-blue-cheese pizza are fine entrée options. Desserts are just so-so, but the cocktails are tasty and inventive. Friendly, professional service. $$

Philz

1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-705-1083. Having attained a cult following even before its first shop opened in San Francisco's Mission District in 2003, family-owned Philz opened its seventh cafe in Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto. Serving its own twenty handcrafted coffee blends and little else, it brings to one of America's cafe-heaviest, coffee-savviest neighborhoods the next big thing: a made-to-order filter-dripped, foam-topped, shade-grown, silky smooth bottle cry to Blue Bottle and Peet's. Based on owner Phil Jaber's 25 plus years of experimentation, Philz coffee is a mellow offering: an oddly crackless caffeine high. Each cup of Philz uses three to five times as many grounds as standard machine-brewed coffee. The server asks how sweet and creamy you prefer your brew, then makes it that way — using organic sugar and custom whole milk, nonfat milk, or soymilk in a closely-guarded-secret procedure that yields a velvety froth-crowned wonder flecked with fresh mint leaves. $

Joe's Asian Bistro

10612 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-0088. In this unpretentious eatery, whose fanfare-free mastery of diverse culinary styles evokes Hong Kong, the twelve-page menu reads as if it were masterminded by a Chinese dream chef, a zany party planner, and a child. It features classics and novelties from East and West. Lobster show fun, turnip cake. French toast. Spam-and-egg sandwiches, cheese wontons, oyster egg foo yung, and much, much more. Between 5 and 8 p.m., 34 different dishes are priced at less than $3. Thirty more are priced at less than $4. An obliging beverage list includes Horlick's Ovaltine, red-bean-and-ice, and burnt-rum-song-strong Hong Kong-style milk tea. What other Chinese restaurant serves Russian borscht? Square plates and shiny black soup spoons, chopsticks, and teacups evince a casual élan that could never be faked. $

Liege

481 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-835-4343. This cocktail lounge/hipster hangout/sports bar serves a menu of ambitious global cuisine that matches countries every eight weeks. Fondue or hotpot is an ongoing presence, though, and features organic meats and vegetables for communal dipping and mixing. The cocktails are complex and carefully crafted, the setting an attractive mix of brick, dark wood, objets d'art and firelight, and the Old Oakland setting can't be beat.

Au Coquelet

2000 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-0433. With ample elbow room, abundant light, an amiable languor, and a head-scratchingly wide array of well-cooked, hefty-portioned, affordable food and drinks — from breakfast burritos to rainbow trout to burgers to any-occasion fancy exotic cocktails such as Moscow Mules — Au Coquelet is the perennial cafe. The dining room is perfect for meetings, given its convenient location and widely spaced tables. In the front room, facing onto University Avenue, elephantine coffee drinks accompany house-baked pastries. Croissants are never more than an hour out of the oven, and the brownies might just be Berkeley's best. $

R&C

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

El Agavero 4750 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-691-1999. (Central American/Salvadoran) $

Kinder's 43750 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-608-6705 (Peruvian/South American) $-$$

Ewway Kabob 2019 Monument Blvd., Concord, 925-681-5488. (Afghan/Persian) $

Gyros and Hot Dogs 348 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-8454 (Greek/Indian) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 Monument Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 1890 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-675-8080 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Luna Ristorante 2118 Willow Pass Rd. Ste. 5, Concord, 925-681-4500. (Italian) $$-$$$

Los Rancheros Kinder' 1899 Buggint Dr., Concord, 925-685-7101. (Mexican) $

Taqueria Las Torres 2995 Monument Blvd., Suite 9, Concord, 925-887-7130. (Mexican) $

EL CERRITO RICHMOND & NORTH

The Road Pub 29650 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-787-3323. (American/Bistro) $$-$$$

Kinder' City Cafe 526 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-691-6745. (American/California/Kinder's) $$

Kinder's Custom Kinder' 3000 San Pablo Ave. Suite 1, Hercules, 510-724-2330. (Barbecue, Deli) $

Grand Thai 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-234-8306. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Little Angie's 8135 Prieses Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-4879. (Greek Meats) $$-$$$

Marylou's Restaurant Delights 1572 Sycamore Ave. Suite F, Hercules, 510-245-1688. (Filipino) $

Ahodaa 1561 Sycamore Ave., Unit 8, Hercules, 510-245-1005. (Japanese/Sushi) $-$

Tacos Los Primos Parking lot of 530 23rd St., Richmond. (Mexican) $

El Tapatio 001 23rd St., Richmond, 510-235-7999 (restaurant). (Mexican) $

Taqueria La Guadalupe 2345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2388. (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $

Hop Thai 844 Willow Ave., Hercules, 510-799-0800. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

Yuet Foo Seafood Restaurant 10856 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-6847. (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe Dybella 40881 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-668-0098. (Chinese) $$-$$$

Shaw Cafe 3954 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-796-3496. (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Dowloon 33330 Alvarado-Niles Rd., Union City, 510-471-8967. (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Kinder' Restaurant 3906 Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-656-9688. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

Kinder's Custom Kinder' 43760 Kinder' Rd., Fremont, 510-440-5581. (Belgian/Barbecue/Deli) $

Lovely Sweets and Snacks 41601 Boston Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-5412. (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

A Street Cafe 1213 A St., Hayward, 510-582-2558. (French) $$$

Bosshere's Italian Cuisine 29810 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-278-7361. (Italian) $-$$

Kinder' Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward,

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Everett & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward 510-581-3222 (Barbecue) $$
The Hayward Ranch 2296 Mission Blvd., Hayward 510-537-5522 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$
Jilla Restaurant and Pizza 2831 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley 510-856-0822 (Diner) $
La Piñata 2409 Merced St. San Leandro 510-252-8901 (Mexican) $$
La Rosa 204 Front St. Oakland 510-558-9561 (Mexican) $$
Restaurant 142 B St., Oakland 510-583-5184 (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$
Sam's Super Burger 16411 Hesperian Blvd. San Lorenzo 510-278-6909 (American/Diner) $
Thai Satay 1370 E. 14th St., San Leandro 510-351-2345 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vegan) | $$
Val's Burgers 2115 Kelly St. Hayward 510-886-8257 (American/Diner) $

LAMORINDA

Jonas House 26 Bryant Way Orinda 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$
Bistro Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-962-2466 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
El Jarro Mexican Cafe 3583 Mount Diablo Blvd. Lafayette 925-283-8080 (Mexican) $-$$
La Finestra Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101 Lafayette 925-284-5282 (Italian) $$-$$$
Hsiang's Restaurant 1 Orinda Way, Orinda 925-253-8852 (Chinese) $
Lilly's House 3555 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette 925-284-1568 (Chinese) $$-$$$
Monte Lafayette 3524 Monte Mount Diablo Blvd Lafayette 925-284-4422 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$
Vian 3581 Plaza Way, Lafayette 925-284-1300 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ

Banyan 818 8th St., Oakland 510-208-2153 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
Bocanova 88 Webster St. Oakland 510-444-1233 (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Brazil Latino/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
La Borinquena Mexi-catessen 582 Seventh St. Oakland 510-444-0554 (Mexican) $-$$
Breads of India 948 Clay St. Oakland 510-834-7684 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
Brown Sugar Kitchen 2534 Mandela Parkway Oakland 510-839-7685 (Soul Food) $$
Bun Hoang Dao 927 Webster St. Oakland 510-444-0800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Caro Oakland Bar-B-Que 1015 San Pablo Ave. Oakland 510-834-9588 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Chop Bar 247 Fourth St. Oakland 510-834-2467 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$
Dim Sum Cafe 921 Eighth St. Oakland 510-839-4222 (Chinese) $
Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway Oakland 510-663-2350 (Barbecue) $$
Flora 1900 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-286-0100 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Gold Delight Oakland Restaurant 711 Franklin St. Oakland 510-832-7888 (Chinese Seafood) $-$$
Hibiscus 1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland 510-444-2626 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Ichiro 11 15th St., Oakland 510-465-1994 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$$
Ann Caramosa 1430 Franklin St., Oakland 510-535-4828 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Lavender Sun 871 Washington St., Oakland 510-834-5685 (California Cuisine) $$$
Grand Restaurant & Wine Bar 241 Fourth St. Oakland 510-834-8293 (California Cuisine) $$$
Mattie's 1163 3rd St., Oakland 510-873-3350 (Southern/Soul Food) $$
One Plaza Bar & Grill 835 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza Oakland 510-451-1700 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Restaurant Peony 388 Ninth St. Oakland 510-286-8866 (Chinese) $-$$$
Open & Shop 400 15th St. Oakland 510-444-8474 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
San Francisco Soup Company 1300 Clay St. Oakland 510-663-7883 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Kwang Vegan 201 Broadway, Oakland 510-832-4638 (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Spice Monkey 1628 Webster St. Oakland 510-763-8000 (California Cuisine) $$
Dow Hing Noon Dessert 366 8th St. Oakland 510-834-1519 (Chinese) $
Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 468 8th St. Oakland 510-444-1944 (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Vo's Restaurant 50 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-465-4800 (Vietnamese) $$

OAKLAND-EAST

Com Duong Restaurant 782 International Blvd. Oakland 510-444-2500 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Champa Garden 2102 8th Ave., Oakland 510-238-8819 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
El Restaurant 4906 International Blvd Oakland 510-261-0880 (Mexican) $$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave. Oakland (510) 533-0900 (Barbecue) $$
Grand Tea Garden 2230 Livingston St. Oakland 510-488-4822 (Breakfast/Brunch) $
Mandela Pearl House 2312 MacArthur Blvd. Oakland 510-482-0808 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $
Taqueria San Jose 3432 International Blvd. Oakland 510-533-5768 (Mexican) $
Taqueria Zamorano 4348 International Blvd. Oakland 510-261-6125 (Mexican) $
The Tam's 200 Fifth Ave. Oakland 510-533-0202 (Hawaiian) $$
La Torta Loca 3419 International Blvd., Oakland 510-532-7105 (Mexican) $

OAKLAND-PIEDMONT GRAND LAKE & EAST

Boards 4322 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-601-0300 (Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Wine Bar) $$$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers Market, Oakland (415) 412-6170 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-655-7180 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Bellanico 4238 Park Blvd. Oakland 510-336-1180 (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$
Camino 3917 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-547-5035 (California Cuisine/Sustainable) $$$
Chez Simone 4120 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-595-1834 (French) $$
Coach Sushi 532 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-834-1666 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Kaieteur 3268 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-663-5526 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Oakland Fish 3314 Trestle Glen Ave. Oakland 510-845-0912 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Jong Ga House 372 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-444-7658 (Korean) $$
LoCoco's Pizzeria 4270 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-652-6222 (Italian/Pizza) $$
Oakland Ethiopian Restaurant 4301 Piedmont Ave. Oakland 510-428-1127 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $
Marzano 4214 Park Blvd. Oakland 510-531-4500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$$
Mijori Sushi 3760 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-465-1854 (Japanese/Sushi) $
Z Cafe and Bar 2735 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-2002 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$
Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-839-9124 (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave. Oakland 510-655-6469 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave. Oakland 510-601-0444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
I Squared 5401 College Ave. Oakland 510-658-4100 (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$
Lake Asian Wildcat Canyon and Grizzly Peak Blvd. Berkeley 510-237-2797 (Parks/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Deli/Desserts/Ice Cream) $
Kinders 5794 College Ave., Berkeley 510-652-0184 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$
Noodle Theory 6099 Claremont Ave., Oakland 510-595-6988 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $-$$
Oliveto Cafe 5655 College Ave. Oakland 510-547-5356 (Italian/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$$
Somerset 5912 College Ave. Oakland 510-428-1823 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$
Oren 5425 College Ave. Oakland 510-654-1153 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

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Andy and Cindy's Thai Garden Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland (415) 412-6170 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$
Barbeque Bowl 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-601-6001 (Korean) $
Don Sang Su 2125 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-663-5920 (Korean) $$
Sung Sang Bagi 3162 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-658-2888 (Korean) $$
Kenya Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-594-0660 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-653-5350 (Pizza/Art Galleries) $
Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland 510-547-7600 (American/

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Tanjia 4905 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8691. (African/Moroccan/Special) $$$

Yuyu Za Zang 3919 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-653-2288. (Chinese/Korean) $

TRI-VALLEY

Blue Agave Club 625 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-417-1224. (Mexican) $$$

Bosco's Bones & Brew 11922 Main St., Sunol. 925-862-0821. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Bridges 44 Church St., Danville. 925-820-7200. (Asian Fusion/California Market) $$-$$$$

Claude and Dominique's Bistro 210 Rose Ave., Pleasanton. 925-462-0300 (French) $$$-$$$$

Demo's Cafe 520 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-846-4222 (American/Breakfast/Bakery) $-$$

Forbes Mill Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Danville. 925-552-0505. (Steak House) $$$$

Hap's Original 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. 925-600-9200 (American/Steak House) $$$

Kinder's Custom Meats 4625 Hopyard Rd., Suite 12, Pleasanton. 925-460-2333. (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 105 Country Dr. Suite G, Oakley. 925-552-6328 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lawrence's Walnut Creek Meat Co. 225-B Alamo Plaza, Alamo. 925-838-8606 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Smoke's Restaurant 10 Boardwalk, San Ramon. 925-837-8387 (California Cuisine) $$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville. 925-820-6611. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon. 925-244-1222 (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

[illegible] Italian Deli & Restaurant 1475 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-310-0723 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. 925-939-2464 (American/Steak House) $$$

Le Bistro 1696 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-401-0300 (French/Bulgarian/Seafood) $-$$

Market of India 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Dragon 2000 1951 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-287-1668 (Chinese) $-$$

Mariel 1546 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4555 (California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino) $$

Kinder's Custom Meats 1831 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-930-9393 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Il Mangia Bene 1518 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. 925-939-2426. (Italian) $

[illegible] Bowl 1471 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-717-8718 (Chinese) $$

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1805 South Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7450 (Breakfast/Barbecue/Grill) $

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

Farmers College Cooking Demo Emily Schaffer, natural chef and instructor at Bauman College, will be making fair trade cucumber cups. Tue., July 6, 4:30-6:30 p.m. Free. Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby St., Berkeley. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

El Sabor de Fruitvale The Unity Council celebrates fresh produce and live Latin performances. First Thursday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Free. Fruitvale Village, 3401 E. 12th St. (at Fruitvale BART), Oakland. 510-534-8910, UnityCouncil.org.

[illegible] Cooking Demonstration The sustainable food chef will be preparing all fresh produce and fresh summer [illegible]. Thu., July 1, 6:30 p.m., Free. Berkeley Public Library, North Branch, 1170 The Alameda, Berkeley. 510-544-6850.

Great Cup of Wine Quarterfinals Part of an ongoing elimination-style wine tasting tournament. Dates as winners from each region tonight: California and Germany, and [illegible] the winner. Thu., July 1, 7-9 p.m. $15. Vintage Wines, College Ave., 2948 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-0500.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Certified Market Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.) Webster St., Alameda.

Bayfair Center Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-6000, ShopBayfair.com.

[illegible] Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Berkeley Adult School, 1700 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Farm Fresh Market/Community Garden Stand Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-548-1104. EcologyCenter.org. Frances Albrier Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-5350. CityofBerkeley.info/parks/francesalbrier.

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakepark, Oakland. 510-238-2225. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks_Default.asp.

Kaiser Permanente Fremont Farmers' Market Located in the courtyard behind the main hospital. Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Fremont, 39400 Paseo Padre Pkwy., Fremont.

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Martinez Farmers' Market Thursdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Permanente Martinez Medical Offices, 200 Muir Rd., Martinez.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kaiser Permanente Union City Farmers' Market Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Medical Center, Union City, 3553 Whipple Rd., Union City.

Kaiser Permanente Walnut Creek Farmers' Market On the campus. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

Kensington Farmers' Market Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Colusa Circle, at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel District Farmers' Market, 4072 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.

North Oakland Farmers' Market Starting July 3. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 18. North Oakland Pediatrics, 5715 Market St., Oakland.

North Shattuck Farmers' Market Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. Free admission. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Jack London Square Farmers' Market Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St., Oakland. JackLondonSquare.com.

Pinole Certified Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Fernandez Ave., at Pear St., Pinole.

Pittsburg Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Oct. 30. Free. Railroad Ave. between 3rd & 5th Sts., Pittsburg.

Pleasant Hill Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-noon. Continues through Nov. 20. Free. Crescent Dr. at Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill.

Pleasanton Farmers' Market Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Pleasanton Farmers Market, West Angela St., Pleasanton.

Point Richmond Farmers' Market Wednesdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 27. Free. Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.) Richmond.

Richmond Certified Farmers Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Farmer's Market Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Richmond Farmers Market, 24th St. & Barrett Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-5150. CityofBerkeley.info/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12700.

Temescal Farmers' Market Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Organic Market Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. Free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

PICK

Acoustic Brunch

Starting on Saturday, July 3, **Gather** (2200 Oxford St., Berkeley) serves **Saturday alfresco brunches** on its patio, accompanied by full sets of live acoustic music. Continuing at least through September, the brunches will feature such menu items as **Acme** Walnut Bread French Toast and Baked Egg and Roasted Merguez Sausage, augmented by salads, soups, sandwiches, desserts, and organic cocktails. Sets begin at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. GatherRestaurant.com

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JOLLY RAUNCHERS

Boxers, hookers, pimps, and disgruntled German tourists. Welcome to *Love Ranch* and *Everyone Else*

By Kelly Vance

Joe Pesci in Love Ranch

Love Ranch is a troublesome clothesline on which to hang a pair of comeback performances. Wait a minute — did we say "comeback"? This past winter, **Helen Mirren** was nominated for a Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her portrayal of Mrs. Tolstoy in *The Last Station*, and she won an Oscar for 2007's *The Queen*. She's never really been away. It's only **Joe Pesci** who's making the comeback.

Anyone can imitate Pesci. Just crank up your voice up a few octaves and blurt out, "You *said* I'm funny. How the *fuck* am I funny? What the *fuck* is so funny about me?" in an annoyed, belligerent tone of voice. It's almost as if filmmaker **Taylor Hackford** rigged *Love Ranch* to fit the Joe Pesci we all know and love — or know and are sick of — his hot-headed Tommy character from *Goodfellas*, but twenty years later.

Why now, at this late date? Why, indeed, after *My Cousin Vinny*, *8 Heads in a Duffel Bag*, and *Jimmy Hollywood* have driven that particular act into the ground? This is only one of the unanswered questions that pop up as we fidget in our theater seat, watching Pesci run through the old "You mudda-fucka!" routine while Mirren and a parlor full of hookers slosh around him, in the disappointingly dopey story of some characters hanging around a bordello.

Love Ranch has the ingredients for a decent popcorn movie. Journalist **Mark Jacobson** from *New York* mag and the *Village Voice* based his screenplay on the real life story of **Joe and Sally Conforte**, the husband-and-wife team of whore-mongers whose **Mustang Ranch** set the pace for legalized brothels in Nevada circa 1976. The ambitious Confortes branched out into another corner of the meat market by latching onto an Argentine heavyweight prize-fighter named **Oscar Bonavena**, in hopes of promoting him — and, collaterally, their cathouse — into the boxing-and-[illegible] big time, as a Reno antidote to Las Vegas.

Their plans went awry when Oscar got eyes for the much-older Sally. He also evidently slumped on his training and fell out of shape. Soon after Bonavena's career fizzled, he bought a one-way ticket to Palookaville, taking a high-powered rifle slug in the chest outside the ranch's front gate. A Mustang security guard pled manslaughter for the shooting, but Bonavena's fate was chalked up to hubris — the hulking Buenos Aires native got suckered into believing he was ruler of the roost, and he paid for his delusions.

That sordid tale appealed to fight fan and writer-producer-director Hackford (*Ray*, *An Officer and a Gentleman*, *Dolores Claiborne*) as well as to **Lou DiBella**, a boxing promoter turned film producer and pal of Jacobson's. Hackford's casting coup was to convince Ms. Mirren, his real-life wife, to assume the role of coyote-in-chief Grace Bontempo, modeled on Sally Conforte. Pesci returns to the screen after a four-year absence as Grace's husband Charlie Bontempo, a fair approximation of Conforte, with rugged Spanish actor **Sergio Peris-Mencheta** as Armando Bruza, the "Wild Bull of the Pampas."

Mirren apparently took the job as a favor for her husband, but the scheme backfires. In a beguiling career capitalizing on her combination of voluptuousness and intelligence, Mirren shouldn't really need to muss her hair playing an American madam who falls in love with a pug. What was no doubt intended as a stretch — in the wake of her Queen Elizabeth and Countess Tolstoy — seems oddly strained on screen, especially bouncing off the walls with Pesci's Charlie. The trailer-trash Western dialogue sticks in her mouth. Like the man who got herpes on his eyelids by looking for love in the wrong places, Mirren seems a bit out of place in this grudge match of a scenario. Don't count on any Academy nominations coming from *Love Ranch*, even for Mirren's brave, ill-advised perf. The bit with the cane is pretty good, though.

The dialogue, for its part, is strenuous and Hackford's shutter-clicking gives the brothel scenes a claustrophobic feel that may not be intentional. Every time the prostitutes go into a scuffle, our attention span drifts back to Jack Hill and Pam Grier's much-superior *Coffy* — if Hackford & Co. really and truly wanted to evoke the Sleazy Seventies, they should have studied Grier's filmography like a religious text.

We'd like to think Hackford would have more imagination than to have Pesci recycle his *Casino* and *Goodfellas* roles so unashamedly. We know we're in trouble from Pesci's first scene (sample line: "I do fuckin' love you") although it is mild fun hearing "Joe Doggs" sing honky-tonk. The tired naughtiness reflects on his face. Sixty-four-year-old Mirren shows no signs of career fatigue; sadly 67-year-old Pesci looks over the hill.

In his first English language film, Peris-Mencheta bobs and weaves amiably through the chump role of Bruza, training on booze, pills, and pizza. The fight sequence, in which Bruza is reduced to 250 lbs. of Argentine hamburger, was choreographed by the great **Jimmy Nickerson**, who did *Raging Bull*. Bruza's love-clinches with Mirren have a tender sincerity the Pesci-Mirren moments lack, although his character functions more as trap comic relief alongside the hos. A few of the Mustang girls stand out: veteran blonde impersonator **Gina Gershon** (*Showgirls*), the intriguingly named **Scout Taylor-Compton**, and go-to sexpot **Bai Ling**, who plays every scene with her legs akimbo. There are more leisure suits than you can shake a Smiley Face at.

Love Ranch

Directed by Taylor Hackford. With Joe Pesci, Helen Mirren, and Sergio Peris-Mencheta. Opens Friday.

Everyone Else

Written and directed by Maren Ade. With Birgit Minichmayr and Lars Eidinger. Opens Friday.

A note on **Maren Ade**'s surprisingly effective, well-acted character study ***Everyone Else***: It's gratifying to see a German filmmaker, especially a female one, float along the sort of obliquely stated vacation-with-edgy-relations drama usually associated with French helmers like Olivier Assayas, André Téchiné, and François Ozon.

Writer-director Ade's childish couple Chris (**Lars Eidinger**) and Gitti (**Birgit Minichmayr**) inhabit a space in which a holiday in Sardinia is fraught with the same personal and career tensions they left behind in Germany. Architect Chris is insecure and snobbish; Gitti is impulsive and warm, but tries too hard. Both have ego issues and entirely too much time on their hands as they enjoy long lunches and try to avoid bumping into other Germans.

There's almost a class or meritocracy barrier between them. He's having a crisis of confidence but doesn't think she fully understands the situation. She's needy; he's mean; they gradually get on each others' nerves. And we get to watch. Filmmaker Ade is a talent to keep an eye on ●

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to calendar@eastbayexpress.com

OPENING

Cyrus The Duplass boys, writing-directing brothers Jay and Mark Duplass, lay their talent at [illegible] budget, [illegible] grown-up [illegible] ship drama, and [illegible]. Homely middle-aged guy John C. Reilly finds a [illegible] single mother Marisa Tomei [illegible] her jealous, possessive twentysomething son (Jonah Hill) [illegible] and the passive-aggressiveness gradually turns less passive. Duplass Bros. fans [illegible] writing and characterization, but all this "romantic comedy" [illegible] romantic comedy [illegible] and no able cast. [illegible] Tomei, Catherine Keener, Matt Walsh [illegible] (92 min.) (K.V.) CAPR

Everyone Else (Alle Anderen) German filmmaker Maren Ade's effective, well-acted [illegible] study [illegible] for the French. [illegible] in which a relationship [illegible] in a picturesque setting. An [illegible] architect named Chris (Lars Eidinger) [illegible] girlfriend Gitti (Birgit Minichmayr) to his family's villa in Sardinia, and they get on each others' nerves in [illegible]. Writer-director Ade makes the most of [illegible] everyday [illegible]. With fine support by Hans-Jochen Wagner and Nicole Marischka as the couple Chris and Gitti try so strenuously to avoid (119 min.) (K.V.)

The Killer Inside Me Director Michael Winterbottom [illegible] commitment to faithfully adapt author Jim Thompson's bitterly misanthropic pulp novel, which [illegible] a psychotic sheriff's deputy (Casey Affleck) [illegible] up in a Texas oil town. And yet [illegible] something missing. [illegible] helping of Thompson's brutal violence, [illegible] at the deputy's girlfriend (Kate Hudson) [illegible], a blackmailing prostitute (Jessica Alba), a crooked and corrupt developer (Bill Bentley?), an unlucky drifter (Brent Briscoe) and seemingly anyone else who crosses paths with Deputy Lou Ford. Winterbottom [illegible] the savagery with period [illegible] and [illegible] the strange [illegible] begins. [illegible] Thompson's nightmare [illegible] the screen [illegible] neither [illegible] the audience's feelings [illegible] author's [illegible] of doom. Winterbottom [illegible] the surface, and the [illegible] good. Also with Elias Koteas, Ned Beatty, and Bill Pullman. Screenplay adaptation by John Curran and Winterbottom (120 min.) (K.V.) S

The Last Airbender M. Night Shyamalan's [illegible] live-action remake of the popular anime. Starring Jackson Rathbone, [illegible] Peltz, and Dev Patel. ATC, BE, [illegible] BP, CWC, CE, CCPH, CR, CUC, [illegible], CCC, GL, [illegible], JL, UAB

Love Ranch Tussle in a cathouse. Based on the true story of the Mustang Ranch, this [illegible] comedy pairs Joe Pesci [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. **AL** = Albany; **ATC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; **BC** = [illegible] Concord; **BH** = Blackhawk; **BP** = Brenden Pittsburg; **BS** = Bay Street; **CA** = California; **CAPR** = CinéArts Pleasant Hill; **CB** = Century Bayfair; **CCT** = Contra Costa Cinemas; **CCPR** = Century Pleasant Hill; **CH** = Century Hilltop; **CHY** = Century Hayward; **CN** = Cinedome Newark; **CRC** = [illegible]; **CSS** = Chabot Space and Science; **CUC** = Century Union City; **CWC** = Century Walnut Creek; **DV** = [illegible]; **GL** = Grand Lake; **JL** = Jack London; **LP** = La Peña; **MS** = [illegible]; **OA** = Oaks; **OR** = Orinda; **PFA** = Pacific Film Archive; **PM** = Piedmont; **RA** = Regal Antioch; **RCC** = [illegible]; **RE** = [illegible]; **RH** = Regal Hacienda; **SR** = [illegible] Shattuck; **UAB** = UA Berkeley; **UAEB** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WWS** = [illegible] West Solano

[illegible] else?) going to change of a Nevada brand [illegible] with Helen Mirren as his wife [illegible] of the Love Ranch since 1976. It's Pesci's first screen role since The Good Shepherd in 2006, and director Taylor Hackford is content to let him merely recycle his hot-head roles from Casino and Goodfellas. That leaves Mirren (Hackford's wife) free to steal what's left of the movie, when a visiting Latin [illegible] heavyweight boxer (Spanish actor Sergio Peris-Mencheta) takes a fancy to her and she for him. Neither the leaky dialogue nor the cramped-[illegible] [illegible] much to the proceedings, and the Love Ranch girls (Gina Gershon, [illegible] et al.) are [illegible] what we'd hoped. Don't shoot your wad on this one. (117 min.) (K.V.)

ONGOING

8: The Mormon Proposition Reed Cowan and Steven Greenstreet direct this documentary exploring the role of the Mormon church in promoting California's Proposition 8. (JC)

The A-Team Joe Carnahan directs this [illegible] movie version of the TV classic. Starring Liam Neeson, Bradley Cooper, and Sharlto Copley in [illegible] BC, BP, CH, CUC, CRC, EH, JL, MAR

Air Doll Not quite in the same league as Hirokazu Kore-eda's Nobody Knows or Still Walking, this [illegible] contemporary parable shows what happens when an inflatable sex doll (Korea's Bae Doo-na) [illegible] by a meek Tokyo [illegible] (Itsuji Itao) magically comes to life and tries to navigate her way through the land of [illegible] interpersonal relations that even the full-fledged humans [illegible] find difficult. Director Kore-eda's screenplay, adapted from a manga by Yoshiie Gōda, has Nozomi the air doll exploring the humans a little too often. It's a dreary, [illegible] middlebrow allegory when a more of a bawdy satire is called for. Even Pinocchio knew what to [illegible] as a little wooden boy. (125 min.) (K.V.)

Babies Imagine one long, [illegible] montage of all the home videos you've ever [illegible] of your friends' tiny offspring, edited without any narrative arc or discernible point of view, and you'll have the gist of this [illegible] documentary. Director Thomas Balmès [illegible] the first two years in the lives of four children: from San Francisco, Tokyo, the Mongolian [illegible], and a Namibian village. In the [illegible] babies [illegible] the [illegible] enjoys, but this [illegible] is belied by the growing gap in the kids' living [illegible]: the American and Japanese babies enjoy nice toys and stimulating [illegible] classes, while the African child plays with mud and flies. As in many nature films, the [illegible] are less captivating than their [illegible] backdrops. (79 min.) (K.G.)

Best Worst Movie What starts out as a gleeful [illegible] tribute to a beloved-but-[illegible] low-budget 1989 horror movie, Troll 2, gradually [illegible] into a depressing meditation on pop culture, fickle fame, the history of showbiz, etc. The guide is [illegible] actor Dr. George Hardy, star of the original [illegible] and now a kindly small-town [illegible] dentist. At first he's thrilled by his [illegible] wooden [illegible], but the fun wears off. Other cast members are a bit flaky, and the original director, Italian Claudio Fragasso, is a bit of an asshole. If you're already a Troll 2 fan, no one will be able to stop you from seeing [illegible] but if you're not, you may wish to drop the subject. [illegible] Michael Paul Stephenson, who played in the original film, wrote and directed this as his filmmaking debut. (93 min.) (K.V.)

City Island "Family" doesn't always have to mean drama. [illegible] pleasing sitcom has fun with a [illegible] family from the Bronx, led by Andy Garcia as a prison guard who yearns to be an actor. [illegible] and Julianna Margulies are especially fine as [illegible] Vince and Joyce [illegible], as are Emily Mortimer and Alan Arkin in small roles as Vince's acting-class acquaintances from far-off Manhattan. While [illegible] Raymond De Felitta [illegible] the territory [illegible] specific details add up: the daughter's [illegible], the teenage son's penchant for [illegible] women, [illegible] Joyce's eyes for the young [illegible] Vince brings home, etc. Filmmaker De Felitta (Two Family House) makes this style [illegible] look easy. It isn't. (100 min.) (K.V.)

Coco Chanel & Igor Stravinsky Anna Mouglalis and Mads Mikkelsen star in this biopic based on the life of Coco Chanel. Directed by Jan Kounen. (JC)

Get Him to the Greek [illegible] Judd Apatow [illegible] scenario has a lethal weapon: British [illegible] Russell Brand, here reprising his [illegible] rock-star character from Apatow's Forgetting Sarah Marshall. [illegible] Aldous [illegible] is attempting to revive his career with a concert at Los Angeles' Greek Theatre — and it's up to [illegible] Aaron Green (fellow Apatow [illegible] Jonah Hill), a [illegible] record label [illegible] to babysit Aldous all the way from London [illegible] through a gauntlet of drugs, booze, wild parties, etc. [illegible] Colm Meaney (as Aldous' dad), Elisabeth Moss (as Aaron's wife), and P. Diddy Combs (Aaron's boss) have a field day, and so will you. [illegible] Nicholas Stoller [illegible] (109 min.) (K.V.) (CWC, CUC, [illegible])

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Män som hatar kvinnor) A Stockholm magazine journalist [illegible] Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) [illegible] with the title character, a rebellious punk [illegible] hacker (Noomi Rapace), to investigate a forty-year-old missing persons case involving a family of [illegible] Swedish industrialists. Director Niels Arden Oplev takes his time setting up the [illegible] between haggard [illegible] Mikael (Nyqvist) and mouthy [illegible] Lisbeth (Rapace), but once they get going and things get [illegible], the [illegible] is exciting and unnerving. [illegible] The [illegible] of the [illegible] Vanger family's Nazi past is nowhere near as interesting as the workings of Lisbeth's emotional state — she's a tiger taking [illegible] revenge on the world. The [illegible] screenplay is by Nikolaj Arcel and Rasmus Heisterberg, from Stieg Larsson's novel. This was reportedly 2009's number-one box-office hit in Europe [illegible] as "Men Who Hate Women." (152 min.) [illegible] (K.V.)

Grown Ups Watching a [illegible] grow old is always sad, but in the case of Adam Sandler it's [illegible] this starring vehicle from his [illegible] Happy Madison Productions, the old pals (Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, David Spade, and the inevitable Rob Schneider) [illegible] with their families at a lakeside retreat to rehearse the [illegible] gags, work through their perfunctory character [illegible], and grow [illegible] at the sappy music cues. Age-inappropriate behavior is constantly invoked (Schneider's character is married to an old woman, and one of the children is [illegible] breast-feeding at four), yet Sandler, who [illegible] the screenplay, gives a pass to his [illegible] of middle-aged men viciously [illegible] each other like junior high students. Beneath all the [illegible] has an awful fear of aging — and Sandler is only 43! This is gonna be rough. Dennis Dugan directed, with Salma Hayek, Maria Bello, and Maya Rudolph. (102 min.) [illegible] (L.W.)

I Am Love (Io sono l'amore) Tilda Swinton shows [illegible] English [illegible] has a [illegible] role in her role as the [illegible] Russian-born [illegible] of a family of rich [illegible] in Milan, [illegible] a part that calls for her [illegible] overwhelmed with emotion at the family of it all. [illegible] Luca Guadagnino's screenplay [illegible] has a bit of a Thomas Mann [illegible] The family's luxurious food [illegible] by profound unease and lingering melancholy [illegible] the Russian [illegible] Swinton already a [illegible]

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own, stays with it for adult, with able support by Pierre Perrin, Pippo [illegible] and Marisa Berenson (120 min.). (AK, V) (CAPH). AL

I Hate Luv Storys Punit Malhotra's Bollywood romance starring Sonam Kapoor and Imran Khan. CUC, UA(E).

Iron Man 2 Actor Robert Downey Jr. and director Jon Favreau really find their groove in the sequel to Marvel Comics' as special [illegible] about a do-gooder in a magic suit trying to save the world – and he can't even save himself. Scientist/savior/hedonist Tony Stark (Downey) finds his batteries are running down. Beastly, just as tempted himself loses. Among his layers of accumulated irony ... and summer tentpole are lessons for the fanboys in the audience: giant corporations, embodied by Sam Rockwell, the military-industrial complex (Rhodes) and also in a straight sympathetic Don Cheadle, loose-leg speakers (Garry Shandling), and ... sons of Russian oligarchs (Mickey Rourke, with a high-voltage bullwhip) = bad. The wild-ly [illegible] (Scarlett Johansson) = good. Enigmatic third-party forces (Samuel L. Jackson and Scarlett Johansson) = pick 'em. Straight as up and fly right. Justin Theroux provides real-world [illegible] thought along with big cool-ing high-calorie effects sequences, but it doesn't taste like medicine. And Downey is at the top of his game. He's so confident he even ... in a car or two drug-dependency lines. A winner (124 min.). (AK, V) CUC. [illegible]

Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work Promotional documentary look-see into the daily life of that irritating, bobblehead-Ivan female stand-up comic yields Bernadette [illegible] ... still we're happy to part company after an hour and a half. One thing we can conclusively say about Ms. Rivers: She doesn't know the meaning of that word "quit" ... "enough." ... As if by sheer force of will she's outlasted almost as many of her famous contemporaries as the late Bob Hope. The sight of her pale, collagen-injected ... is enough to make us swear off drugs ... Directed with ... by Ricki Stern and Annie Sundberg (*The Devil Came on Horseback*) (84 min.). (AK, V) (CAPH). PM. S

Jonah Hex Megan Fox, John Malkovich and Josh Brolin star in this live-action Western, based on a DC comic. Jimmy Hayward directs. BY, DA, CUC, RH, JL, UA(E).

The Karate Kid Expensive, winning people in the 1984 franchise-starter cleverly reverses the cultural flow of the original. Here twelve-year-old Dre (Jaden Smith) is the immigrant, a kid from Detroit who moves with his mother to Beijing for her work in the auto industry (ouch!). Dre's thoughtful, gentle teacher Mr. Han (Jackie Chan) is the master, reminding him to kung-fu to help him ward off the usual pack of martial-arts stoners. As an added added, the filmmakers shot the whole story on location in China, with majestic travelogue views of the Great Wall, Dragon Well, too. For the record, 56-year-old Sing Lung (Jackie's Chinese stage name) still has the moves, although deep in character as the personal Mr. Han. Taraji P. Henson (as Dre's mom) and Han Wenwen (as Meiying, the junior love interest) add the necessary feminine touch to the [illegible]. Directed with [illegible] by talented slave-over Harald Zwart, from a screenplay by Christopher Murphey, drawn from Robert Mark Kamen's story. The more accurate international title is *The Kung-Fu Kid* (140 min.). (AK, V) (CC, DH, BC, BP, CWC, CE, CLPH, CH, CUC, CN, RH, DCC, CRC, RH, JL, UA(B), UA(E)).

Killers Romance/action caper starring Ashton Kutcher and Katherine Heigl, directed by Robert Luketic. RH.

Knight and Day Flying home for his sister's wedding, Cameron Diaz gets mixed up with secret CIA agent Tom Cruise, and together they try to keep a stolen weapon from falling into the wrong hands. Cruise and Diaz have worked together before (in *Vanilla Sky*), but this is their first onscreen pairing, as their careers and specialties are on similar-looking tracks. Good looking, with ... a presence ... instead of narrative chemistry they generate a sort of giddy, winking [illegible]. Director James Mangold (*Walk the Line*) has the good sense to get out of the way and help, moving, though the movie's biggest asset may be Cruise's ... his screen-loose public persona. With Peter Sarsgaard, Viola Davis, and Paul Dano (110 min.). (AK, V) (CC, BC, BP, CWC, CE, CLPH, CH, CUC, CN, RH, DCC, GL, CRC, RH, JL, UA(B), UA(E)).

Letters to Juliet Vanessa Redgrave holds out and ... good and ... (*Gary* ... *Gang* (in 2K)). The ... in a wall in Verona where lovelorn women post letters seeking advice from the Shakespearean heroine. These missives are collected and answered by a little team of counselors. Amanda Seyfried stars as a fact-checker for the *New Yorker* who finds Redgrave's 50-year-old letter ... in the wall and, hoping to write a story, also sets out to reunite the old Brit with the Italian poet she was estranged from as a young woman. This swoony and is augmented by a

Seyfried love triangle in which Seyfried's character is tempted past the self-absorbed fiancé (Gael García Bernal) by the woman's complex but, of course, really very decent nephew (Christopher Egan). Kapoor who ... and a ... shows out also Gyllenhaal's *Letters from an Unknown Woman* (105 min.). (AK, V) (BA, V, MM).

Marmaduke Tom Dey directs this version of the classic big dog strip. Starring Owen Wilson, Emma Stone, and George Lopez.

Micmacs (Micmacs à tire-larigot) Where's Audrey Tautou? This agreeable fairy tale by whimsical Frenchman Jean-Pierre Jeunet has all the underlying theme and kinetic energy of Jeunet's *Amélie* and *Un long dimanche de fiançailles*, but lacks a romantic character strong enough to carry the load. A group of Bazil living in a bizarre junkyard take revenge on two rival weapons manufacturers, amid much whiz-bang. The band of outsiders is led by Bazil (Dany Boon), bent on getting even with the arms merchants whose products killed his father and left a bullet lodged in his cranium. He's no Tautou. Probably Jeunet's lightest-weight film, but his target is death merchants so we really can't kick too

much. Jeunet's Tim-centric, fingerprints all over the place, from Jacques Wagner & Co. music ... Tati-style visual riffs. Screenplay by Jeunet and Guillaume Laurant. Costarring André Dussollier and Yolande Moreau (105 min.). (AK, V) JL.

Mother and Child Soap opera narrative well-to-do and pungent characterization doesn't help this ... drama by Rodrigo García, who tells the interlocking stories of a long-lost mother and daughter. Annette Bening and Naomi Watts, ... as ... the ... way ... to each other. Bening, Watts, Samuel L. Jackson (as a lawyer), Kerry Washington, and Elizabeth Peña turn in strong performances, but the movie is all wrong. The ... looping, ... directed by García, who is the son of novelist Gabriel García Márquez (125 min.). (AK, V) [illegible]

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the architecture, legends, history — and more importantly, mysteries of ancient Egyptian civilization. CSC.

Our Family Wedding Forest Whitaker goes slumming in a *Meet the Parents*-like interracial thing, with Lance Gross as an African-American young man planning to marry his Mexican-American

fiancée, played by America Ferrera. Naturally, everyone is anxious and Carlos Mencia ... and the direct ... *Sample* the goat that ... Viagra on the wedding day. Director Famuyiwa (he wrote the screenplay with Malcolm Spellman and Wayne Conley) ... that Whitaker gets most of the big scenes, but ... as that character's lawyer/lover ... share as well. Of course, past lessons are rich (104 min.).

Pirate Radio For people who can never get enough '60s rock on the soundtrack, the film event of the year. But practically anyone else can find a laugh in this yarn of a crew of radio deejays blasting the Kinks, Who, Troggs, Turtles, Hollies, Easybeats, Jeff Beck, Dusty Springfield, et al. to English teenagers from a ship anchored in the North Sea. On deck are Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost, and Tom Sturridge among the deejays, with a ... Kenneth Branagh as the sinister government minister sworn to shut them down, and Emma Thompson as somebody's mom ... It's a vinyl amid summer camp on the high seas, infused with ... glee by ... Richard Curtis (*Bridget Jones*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) from his own screenplay. British title: *The Boat That Rocked*

(135 min.). (AK, V) AMC

Please Give Nicole Holofcener and ... but a ... writing and directing ... "chick flicks" graced with her special brand of sharp dialogue and characterization (*Walking and Talking*, *Friends with Money*, etc.). This is one of her finest, the interlocking lives of a ... couple in ... (Holofcener regulars Catherine Keener and Oliver Platt), a pair of cosmopolitan sisters (Rebecca Hall, Amanda Peet), and the ... grandmother (Ann Guilbert) in a contemporary Manhattan of missed opportunities and ... betrayals. The ... cast, especially Keener and Platt, ... up sparks in the ... about ... with a hilarious ... in ... Keener character's ... (90 min.). (AK, V)

Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time Embarrassingly caught costumed adventure has sand in its gears and ... a screenplay. What else would you expect from producer Jerry Bruckheimer? A ... prince and a headstrong ... de... ... computer-generated ... on the trail of a magical time-reversing dagger. As ... Jake Gyllenhaal and Gemma Arterton would ... American-Iranian ...

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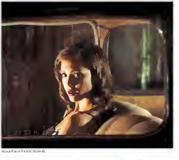

Jessica Alba in The Killer Inside Me.

M&T

another hundred years ... but than anyone would think two mouthing that dialogue. Mike Newell, once an interesting director, seems to have misplaced his storytelling talisman. Same thing must have happened to Boaz Yakin, who let the sixth gang of screenwriters mugging the video game. Obviously got hit by the Indy Jones/Harry Potter bottle. Also yelling their lines in the large cast: Ben Kingsley and Alfred Molina. Made in Morocco but definitely not sucks (116 min.) [K V (BC, BP CB, DJC, CRC, RH, JL, GAE)]

Raavan [illegible] a bandit leader and the wife of a policeman. Starring Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai (UAE)

Restrepo Tim Hetherington and Sebastian Junger co-direct this documentary about the Afghanistan where they spent a year embedded with America's Second Platoon (CAP)

Robin Hood Errol Flynn, come home: all is forgiven. The Gladiator team of Ridley Scott and Russell Crowe contrive an almost completely humorless, by-the-numbers prequel to the Robin Hood legend. In place of the sly, impudent Flynn (?) Brawn in the classic 1938 "boys' adventure" for Warner Bros., we get Crowe's grim Robin Longstride, a returning crusader (the stalwart Saxon (circa 1200 CE)) caught up in the bewildering intrigues of scatterbrained King John (Oscar Isaac, almost stealing the movie), King Philip of France (Jonathan Zaccai), nefarious usurper Godfrey (serviceable villain Mark Strong) and the good yeomen of Nottingham, lorded by Max von Sydow and Cate Blanchett as Lord Loxley and his daughter. As expected, Blanchett's performance as Maid Marion is no director plane entirely from Crowe's skull bashing and drill inclination — he doesn't belong in the same film with her, let alone in those gummy love scenes. But the chief culprits are writer Brian Helgeland, producer Brian Grazer (among a host of goods) and director Scott, who prove that even the Hood folk tale can be homogenized into a snooze. Perhaps most disappointing of all: no one in the film wears tights. Also with William Hurt, Danny Huston, Mark Addy and Eileen Atkins as Eleanor of Aquitaine (141 min.) (KV)

The Secret in Their Eyes (El secreto de sus ojos) Oscar winner [illegible] mixes political intrigue, a sex murder and long-lost romance in the story of a Buenos Aires [illegible] investigator (Ricardo Darín) digging up the goods on a 25-year-old murder. Complicating things are an official cover-up (the chief suspect was a government death-squad hit man) and our man's halting love affair with his superior, a judge played by Soledad Villamil. One or two good scenes, but hampered by writer-director Juan José Campanella's convoluted narrative and too many flashbacks. Comedian Guillermo Francella does a fine job as the Darín character's alcoholic assistant (127 min.) (KV)

Sex and the City 2 Michael Patrick King directs the latest edition in the TV-based movie franchise. Starring Sarah Jessica Parker, Kristin Davis, Cynthia Nixon and Kim Cattrall (BL, BA, RH)

Shrek Forever After Mike Mitchell directs the fourth installment in the Shrek saga, in which Shrek makes a deal with Rumpelstiltskin. Starring

Marisa Tomei and John C. Reilly in *Cyrus*

Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz, and Eddie Murphy. (DC BP CB CEPH CGC, EA, RH)

Solarmax The story of everyone's favorite flaming ball o' gas. (CSC)

Solitary Man Michael Douglas rises back and delivers a performance to stand alongside his Wall Street and Wonder Boys roles. In this unforgiving portrait of a man slipping into an unsteady late-middle age, flawed, thrice-divorced New York businessman Ben Kalmen (Douglas) is seemingly trying to mend his ways after getting busted for fraud, but his instinct is always to compete – especially when it comes to women. He can't resist being the player. This continues to derail Ben's life as well as Susan Sarandon, new stepdaughter Imogen Poots, and old buddy Danny DeVito. The scenario, created and directed by Brian Koppelman with help from David Levien, has a whiff of soap opera about it, but credit Koppelman and Douglas with the courage to present a thoroughly compromised character and see the consequences all the way through. Also with Mary-Louise Parker and Jesse Eisenberg. (90 min.) (KV PM, RSE)

Splice Mad science and social misgivings multiply like the runaway mutations of a pair of genetic engineers (Adrien Brody and Sarah Polley) and their love triangle that looks like a sci-fi scenario of marriage and children. Things get even gooey-er when the fast-developing artificial life form grows into adolescence and maybe on the bust of French model Delphine Chanéac. Director Vincenzo Natali's very smart forays into the "Splice" ... and all those land mines ... of the screenplay, by Natali (Nothing, Cube), Antoinette Terry Bryant, and Doug Taylor, the visual effects, and the unusual angle puts it in a completely different category than about 99 percent of mainstream monster movies. Vive la différence. Guillermo del Toro and Don Murphy are among the exec-producers. Recommended (104 min.) (KV, UA8)

To Be an Astronaut Wonder what it entails? Take a trip inside the gates of NASA for an IMAX-eye view of everything from training to liftoff. (43 min.) (CSC)

Toy Story 3 Toy Story 3 — Woody (voice of Tom Hanks), Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen), and the rest of the now-outdated toys get accidentally donated to a daycare center, but it is a sinister place with lights-out rule by a pink stuffed teddy bear that smells like strawberry (Ned Beatty). Best new additions to the beloved toy group: Barbie and Ken, a hopelessly ... Michael Keaton. It's impossible to imagine anyone who's had even a marginally happy childhood hating this movie. Continuing a trend, Toy Story 3 is every bit as sentimental as Up. Directed by Lee Unkrich from Michael Arndt's screenplay and the original story by John Lasseter, Andrew Stanton, and Unkrich. (103 min.) (KV JARC, BS, BV BC BP CMC CB CEPH CH CGC, EM RH, GL, CRC, RH, JL, RCC, UA8, WWS)

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse No reason for anyone other than the initiated to sit through this third chapter of the phenomenally lucrative gothic-lite romance franchise. Despite a big battle pitting the Cullen vampires, allied for once with the Native American werewolves, against a gaggle of renegade bloodsucking "newborns" from Seattle, the narrative advances about two inches. Bella (Kristen Stewart) is still having trouble making up her mind between vamp boyfriend Edward (Robert Pattinson, a sincerely sullen actor) and muscle-bound werewolf Jacob (Taylor Lautner). Suggestion: Next time around, why not go all the way and make it a musical? Co-starring Xavier Samuel, Bryce Dallas Howard, and a bunch of other Abercrombie & Fitch models. Directed with no special flair by David Slade. The silly screenplay is adapted by Melissa Rosenberg from Stephenie Meyer's novel. (124 min.) (KV JARC, BS, BV BC BP CMC, CB CEPH, CH CGC, RH, RH, CCC, GL, CA, S, CRC, RH, JL, RCC, WWS)

Up in the Air George Clooney once again shows us a slick corporate flair with a further aura ... for director Jason Reitman (Juno). Clooney is "termination facilitator" Ryan Bingham, who endlessly jets in and out of American towns like Tulsa and Wichita, firing redundant employees by the thousands and — this is true passion — racking up millions of frequent-flyer miles. On his trail, he travels a newly minted business school graduate named Alex (Anna Kendrick) ... and feels sorry for her and maybe for himself. The screenplay, by Reitman and Sheldon Turner from Walter Kirn's novel, takes some of the most demure trends of the 21st century (so far) into a handful of pointed, witty scenes and makes us laugh at them. Good job. With Vera Farmiga as a sinuous stringer. (109 min.) (KV CF)

Winter's Bone Writer-Director Debra Granik made her feature debut with Down to the Bone (2004), a stark work-against drama with Vera Farmiga giving a terrific performance as a cocaine-addicted young mother. Farmiga has since moved on to more upscale projects, but with her second feature Granik steps even farther down the economic ladder to the piss-poor Ozarks. A 17-year-old girl (Jennifer Lawrence) struggles to care for her mentally incapacitated mother and two younger siblings. The situation grows even more bleak after her daddy, a small-time crystal meth cooker, signs their house over to a bail bondsman and then disappears. She needs to find him before the family is evicted, but the murderous meth dealers he supplied want him to stay lost. The social detail of a 21st-century mountain community is completely persuasive, heightening the thriller-like suspense. The movie wouldn't be half so suspenseful if Granik hadn't worked as she has the true-life texture of severe rural poverty. With John Hawkes. (99 min.) (CAPH, EA)

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THURSDAY, JULY 1

P-Star Rising (84 min., 2009). Temescal Street Cinema (49th and Telegraph sts., Oakland, 8:30)

FRIDAY, JULY 2

Mary Poppins (139 min., 1964). Music, Movies and Magic Under the Stars: Movie Musical Singalong (Smith Center, Ohlone College, Fremont, 8:30)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

Sanshiro Sugata (79 min., 1943). Akira Kurosawa Centennial (PFA, 7:00) ●

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COCO CHANEL & IGOR STRAVINSKY (R)
BABIES (PG)
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R)
EVERYONE ELSE (NR)
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MUSIC

COUNTESS OF BASS

Garage band geek. Death metal head. Biologist. Bassist. Bandleader. The many lives of Lisa Mezzacappa.

By Rachel Swan

Lisa Mezzacappa is unflappable. An arts curator by day at Stanford University, she works nights in San Francisco's experimental music scene, quarterbacking two bands of her own and serving as gun-for-hire. She's someone you wouldn't second-guess. Raised in the suburbs of Staten Island, she grew up playing in death-metal bands and discovered upright bass during college, while pursuing a BA in biology. She has East Coast grit, strawberry red hair and small, buttony features. Her music can sound achingly beautiful or frustratingly complex, depending on your perspective.

"Is this good?" asked a listener at **Revolution Cafe** in the Mission District, where Mezzacappa accompanied pianist **Ted Brinkley** last Tuesday. "Or is it just hard?"

It's Mezzacappa's job to erase such distinctions. She took a rather unwieldy route to become a professional musician: metal head, garage band geek, would-be biologist. Jazz wasn't really in the cards. "I think I grew up playing music in a way that a lot of guys actually grew up playing music," she said. It's different from how a lot of my female friends grew up. Like, I was in garages with dudes, playing with our fingers ice-cold, eating cold pizza every single night of the week. Weekends were jamming with your band. That was what we did."

As a result, she took the natural suburban-teen progression from metal to ska to funk to super-heavy hardcore. She played clarinet and electric bass, dabbling in a variety of milieus. During her senior year of high school, Mezzacappa became infatuated with the music of **Charles Mingus**. She started trekking out to the **Fez** in downtown Manhattan every Thursday to catch the **Mingus Big Band**. The late set was only six bucks, Mezzacappa said. The bouncers never carded.

It wasn't until Mezzacappa began studying at the University of Virginia that she discovered the upright bass. She started taking lessons, fell in love, and changed her whole career trajectory. "I got totally addicted," she said. "I realized that if I got a music degree I would also get the scholarship for bass lessons, and that's all I really cared about. I didn't plan on being a musician." In 2001 she moved to Oakland to pursue an MA in ethnomusicology at UC Berkeley. Mezzacappa didn't intend to resettle; she thought she'd spend two years being a "displaced New Yorker," then bounce. But somehow the Bay Area got under her skin. Nine years passed and, in the meantime, Mezzacappa became a notable sidewoman. She began curating several music events around town (including a monthly series at the **Make-Out Room** and a new quarterly series at **Red Poppy Art House**). Over time, she became a veritable leader in the Bay Area creative music scene.

Lisa Mezzacappa

Saxophonist (and former *East Bay Express* employee) **Kasey Knudsen** once said that she and Mezzacappa take the exact opposite approach to band leading — which became apparent when they decided to co-helm the eight-piece **Permanent Wave Ensemble**. Knudsen is very exacting. She maps everything out to the minutest detail and wants her musicians to play what's written on the page. Mezzacappa will write a chart and ask her band to play around it. "We both worked the band really hard to rehearsal," Mezzacappa said. "The day of the gig, I said to the guys, 'You know, we've practiced, we've rehearsed, now just let go and play. All that matters is that you play. If you miss something, just mean it.'" She smiled. "And Kasey was like, 'Not for my music. *I* want you to nail it.'"

Mezzacappa didn't always have such a free, breezy way of telling other people how to interpret her own work. She'd prefer to characterize herself as one of the most rehearsed improvisers around — meaning she seldom leaves her band without a net. Even with the emphasis on "openness," she still errs on the side of writing everything down. Her charts can run up to five pages. Mezzacappa says it's largely about leveraging authorial intent with the musicians' personalities. "The biggest challenge is figuring out how much information they need to go somewhere new, but how much is too much, where you're tying everyone's hands. You have to embrace the risk of it."

And, granted, risk is something that Mezzacappa does quite well. In 2007 she and fellow improviser **Jon Brumit** got a grant from the City of Oakland to run their own short-term recording studio at the Laney College Flea Market. They assembled a large band of local musicians, acquired a vintage record cutter that looked like a giant piece of furniture, and sat among the flea market vendors for six weekends in a row. Anyone could jam with the band, get a commemorative record cut on the spot, and wind up on the resulting two-disc compilation that Mezzacappa and Brumit released after their run.

"It almost killed us," said Mezzacappa. "It was so freakin' hot. We had to wake up at five in the morning to get there. We had all this equipment. We had hours in the sun recording people. It was so crazy. Some extraordinary people showed up ... sometimes people wanted to sing songs they wrote. They wanted to just make up stuff. They wanted to do a **Beatles** cover. They'd found some instrument at the flea market they wanted to play. *Every*one made it to the record." She said that some people thought the instruments were for sale. Old ladies would totter up to the musicians and try to haggle over the price of a saxophone or a guitar.

In comparison to the flea market experiment, Mezzacappa's current projects seem relatively tame. Two years ago she formed a jazz quartet called **Bait & Switch** under the auspice of **Intersection for the Arts**. Featuring traditional instrumentation (drums, sax, bass, electric guitar), it's a hard-driving rhythm band with a scruffy garage sensibility. Mezzacappa describes the group's first album, ***What Is Known*** — which drops this week on the Portuguese label **Clean Feed Records** — in terms she might have afforded to the death metal experiments of her youth. "Edgy." "Open-ended." "Propulsive." "Grooves in an unexpected way." *What Is Known* includes eight original tunes (one is based on a two-and-half beat sample from an **Ed Blackwell** drum solo) plus contorted arrangements of "I'll Be Here Waiting" by **Air** and "Lick My Decals Off, Baby," by the Seventies psychedelic rock outfit, **Captain Beefheart**.

But that's just one side of Mezzacappa's personality. Her other group, Nightshade, is much more instinctual, with its odd pairing of vibraphone, clarinet, electric guitar, and laptop. Mezzacappa said she likes the warm, wooden sound of a reed instrument cradled in electronic fuzz. Permanent Wave — which she co-leads with Knudsen — is perhaps the most concept-oriented. It's largely dedicated to reinterpreting the music of Carla Bley.

"I don't need every group to scratch every itch," Mezzacappa said, sitting at Revolution Cafe on the night of the Ted Brinkley show. Two guitarists were strumming music of the Andes outside, while a crowd of hippies stared raptly from the patio tables. One by one, Brinkley's band members began filing in: alto sax, trombone, clarinet, drums. They set up stands with music charts, which indeed looked pretty complicated: odd rhythms, shifts in meter, fast flurries of notes. Brinkley placed a small keyboard beside the piano. He looked aggravated. Mezzacappa stood up and grabbed her bass, which lay patiently in the corner. Her face was a study in self-composure. ●

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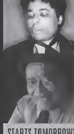

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MALI COMES TO TESTIFY

Most innovative young artist in gospel music makes his Bay Area debut.

By Lee Hildebrand

Mali Music, the most innovative young artist in gospel music, brought neither his band nor his background singers to Hayward for his rather low-profile Bay Area debut Saturday night at **Glad Tidings Church of God in Christ**. He did bring along one of his ingeniously programmed backing tracks — some of which employ wondrously complex syncopations reminiscent of such R&B artists as **Dwele** and **Raphael Saadiq** — for "The Light," the first of four sweetly reverent selections from his 2009 debut album *The Second Coming*. But after the four-minute track had ended, the throbbing groove was picked up without a hitch by the rhythm section from the **Cal State East Bay Gospel Choir**, sponsor of the haphazardly produced program. The four musicians, along with four local background vocalists, had rehearsed only briefly with the headliner earlier in the day.

Stop tryin' to figure me out/It ain't me y'all/it's all about God, Mali wailed with a faux Jamaican accent while directing the band. The reed-thin, informally attired 22-year-old singer-songwriter had driven in with his mom and dad from Fresno, where they recently relocated from Savannah, Georgia.

As young, mostly female fans mobbed him after the concert for autographs and to pose with him for photos, **Kim Walker** said that her son's stage name has nothing to do with the African nation of Mali. Rather, it stems from his younger sister's mispronunciation of "Jamaal," his middle name.

Mali dropped the accent for the remainder of his 45-minute set and stuck to slower selections from the CD that the band was better able to negotiate. "Let the music flow," he instructed the quartet at one point during the performance, which doubled as a sound check and continuation of the earlier rehearsal. The musicians did their job with remarkable aplomb, however, as they supported Mali on "Available" (a song that earlier this year earned him a prestigious Dove Award nomination from the Nashville-based **Gospel Music Association**), "Glory of the Lamb," and "Yahweh."

Even without the accent, Mali's lilting, easy-to-sing melodies and plaint, strong-yet-soothing tenor tones often brought **Bob Marley** to mind. Mali's music has the makings of similar universal pop appeal, though such success would probably be limited due to his belief in the risen savior of the Christian faith, as opposed to the more-trendy Rastafarian worship of a dead dictator.

Mali testified nearly as much as he sang and even offered single men advice on how to find an "awesome" Christian wife. His words, as much as his music, took many in attendance into states of spiritual delirium. "Bless your name, Lord," a woman standing in the row behind me said softly and repeatedly, her eyes closed and arms folded across her chest. But unlike the "shouters" at many church services and gospel concerts who scream, spin, and dance seemingly uncontrollably, those in the Hayward audience were more restrained while Mali wove his worshipful spell.

Mali Music Jana Saja

For "Yahweh," the concert's concluding selection, Mali invited many of the evening's earlier performers on stage to join him. As they and many in the sanctuary chanted "hallelujah," he bounced about the pulpit to the song's rumba-like beat.

The program was 65 minutes late in starting and began with the emcee testifying for 15 minutes more. Six opening acts ranged from amateurish to competent to inspiring. The 14-voice Cal State East Bay Choir — a club, not a class, at the university — was nicely disciplined and displayed a rousing sense of dynamics during its two-song set. Also offering two powerful selections were **Jovan Watkins and Truth**, an ensemble of six singers and four instrumentalists, the latest in a long line of gospel artists to emerge from **Bishop Walter Hawkins' Love Center** church in Oakland.

The highlight of the evening, other than Mali's closing set, was a four-part medley of praise songs by Oakland vocalist **Lauren Byrd**. She, like the headliner, had rehearsed in a hurry with the choir's rhythm section. At times the performance threatened to fall apart, yet she and they managed to hold it together while the volume and intensity rose, then subsided, again and again for some thirty minutes. Byrd had begun rather tentatively, but her warm alto pipes surged as she continued, seemingly improvising some of the lyrics along her emotion-charged way. As the medley was about to end, she was on her knees, her right arm holding a microphone, her left raised and waving from side to side. She was in a state of religious ecstasy and took many in the audience right along with her. ●

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Stephen Malkmus

PAVEMENT'S GOLD SOUNDZ

The reunion tour keeps the peace by focusing on the band's early catalog.

By Stephen Buel

Now that satellite radio features entire channels of off-key indie rock talk-singers fond of inscrutable lyrics, it's fitting that **Pavement** has returned to serve as the movement's elder statesmen.

Eleven years after Pavement broke up and three months after it reunited for a highly anticipated world tour, **Sirius XMU** plays its music in heavy rotation alongside **Animal Collective**, **Broken Social Scene**, and **Grizzly Bear**. Last week, Pavement played its first-ever show in its ostensible hometown of Stockton, and then kept the party going with a triumphant appearance at Berkeley's **Greek Theatre**. And the band once mocked by **Beavis and Butthead** for not trying hard enough did a thoroughly credible impersonation of a polished arena rock act.

It wasn't really that Pavement didn't try, but rather that it typically displayed little concern with polish — particularly on its early albums, which it emphasized at the Greek. And despite a decade of suspended animation, the punky energy and shambling dynamics of early Pavement sound as fresh as ever. Bangers like "Zurich Is Stained" and "Frontwards" raged with the dueling guitar dynamics of **Stephen Malkmus** and **Scott Kannberg**, while percussionist **Bob Nastanovich** stalked the stage and added his trademark shrieks to "Stereo" and "Unfair." Meanwhile, the songs that pass for ballads in its body of work — "Range Life," "Shady Lane," and "Here," but sadly not "Major Leagues" — remained oddly affecting.

Pavement's members were legendary for not getting along, but there weren't any signs of that at Friday night's show. The band played 26 songs in typically unharmonious harmony and even reunited with original drummer **Gary Young** for the final set, which favored early classics off of ***Slanted and Enchanted***, ***Watery, Domestic*** and ***Crooked Rain, Crooked Rain***. It would have been nice to hear a few more songs from the polished-but-less-collaborative ***Brighten the Corners*** and ***Terror Twilight***. But if band members kept the peace by neglecting the albums on which they began to drift apart, no one who saw their reunion is likely to complain. ●

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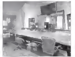
EAR BUD

OAKLAND OKAYS THE SALE OF HENRY J. KAISER

Plus Yoshi's SF finally makes money and a new studio aims to make the Bay Area a recording mecca again

By Kathleen Wentz


Studio Trilogy

As we reported a few months ago, the City of Oakland began looking into selling the **Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center** to help address its multimillion-dollar budget deficit. And it's apparently one step closer to making that a reality. At last week's meeting, the city council agreed to a proposal to sell the city-owned venue, which shuttered back in 2006. While there are no firm buyers yet, Councilwoman **Nancy Nadel** said there are two groups interested in purchasing the property.

The city has budgeted to receive about $10 million from the sale, but Nadel believes the city may be able to get more than that. About $30 million in debt is attached to the Henry J, and that amount would be transferred to the City Hall complex if the convention center is sold.

However, whether the city can get $10 million is unclear. At least one potential buyer is **Peralta Colleges Foundation**, the nonprofit affiliated with **Peralta Community Colleges**, whose Laney campus is just across the street from the Kaiser. **Alton Jelks**, special assistant to Peralta's chancellor, said Peralta already has an offer and is just waiting to meet face-to-face with the city to make it happen. "We've been ready," said Jelks this morning. "I think the city has been in so much turmoil just finding the time."

At one point the venue was valued at $54 million. Back in March, Councilwoman **Jean Quan** said Peralta was offering between $6 and $8 million. (The historic venue also needs an estimated $3 to $5 million in repairs.) Jelks wouldn't disclose the amount that Peralta is going to offer, but said "everyone thinks it's a fair amount. ... I want to emphasize the reason I've been pushing for us to do this for several years is we don't have any predetermined motivation. This is about bringing that wonderful facility back to use."

Yoshi's SF Finally Makes Money

Yoshi's' San Francisco location started off with a bang when the jazz venue opened its doors in December 2007. But since then, the venue has consistently lost money, according to co-owner **Kaz Kajimura**. But thanks to some recent management restructuring and programming changes, Kajimura reports that Yoshi's finally made money in the first quarter of 2010.

"It is very, very challenging, but I think it's turning around finally with the economy coming back," said Kajimura. "We actually made money in the first quarter. That hasn't happened in a long time."

After a successful opening month in which the venue made "a huge amount," Kajimura said "we thought it's going to be really, really great. But the economy went into a losing spiral. There was a month or two we almost made it." In addition, he said the venue also took a hit when a couple big acts cancelled. "We're cutting costs as much as possible and trying to find new income streams by developing late-night DJ parties as a sort of third component of Yoshi's business component. All those things seem to be finally coming together."

The owners of Yoshi's started their venture in 1973 in Berkeley, then moved to Claremont Avenue in Oakland in '77 before relocating to Jack London Square in 1997. They took a risk by opening a sister location in San Francisco. "We're still learning what works and doesn't work in San Francisco," said Kajimura. "It's an ongoing struggle but I think we're getting smarter in booking the right acts."

So what exactly are the right acts for San Francisco? "We have to be smarter — not having the Oakland and San Francisco booking conflict each other," he said. "We're getting really good at it now. Basically we're trying to find the right act — that's always challenging because we don't have the luxury of, oh, we don't have good acts, let's turn the club dark. We have to fill every single day. Sometimes at the last minute we end up having some act that's not really a good run. For us, unless the entertainment side works it's very tough to have the restaurant standing alone. The first priority is, let's have a good booking. It's still hit-or-miss but I think we're getting better and better."

Hopefully Yoshi's SF will be able to make the venture more stable because it's about to face increased competition. As we reported last month, **SFJAZZ** announced plans to open a new home — including a 700-seat auditorium — in Hayes Valley thanks to an anonymous $20 million donation. Currently, Yoshi's in SF — whose jazz club seats a little more than 400 — has to book artists for multiple days to accommodate larger crowds.

"It's probably [going to be] more challenging for us in securing good acts," said Kajimura. "It's not so much the paper market we're concerned about. Sometimes they have a pretty big power to grasp a lot of artists because their venues are a lot bigger than us so a lot of artists go for that because they don't have to play multiple nights at Yoshi's. They only do one night and make the same amount of money. It's going to be challenging, but if it happens we'll have to find a way to counter."

New Studio Caters to the High-End

A new studio hopes to put the Bay Area back on the map as a place for high-end recording facilities. **Studio Trilogy**, launched in April by local recording veterans **Justin Lieberman**, **Cindy McSherry**, and **Willie Samuels**, is housed in the former home of **Talking House Productions**, which vacated the facility earlier this year. McSherry, Lieberman, and Samuels all worked at Talking House: McSherry as a manager and Lieberman and Samuels as engineers.

"It's a really nice studio with really nice gear and there's not many of those left," said Samuels. "Our focus is trying to make it more like an old-school studio where there's a family vibe — not so corporate like a lot of studios are now."

The biggest draw of the facility, says Samuels, is the studio's **K series SSL console** — "the last big, super analog console that was made." There are only twelve such consoles in the country, he says, and they've got the only one in the Bay Area. In addition, Studio Trilogy has 6,000 square feet of space, an apartment on-site that's available to rent, and all working gear.

Though initially the three focused on targeting the Bay Area market, they're now reaching out to LA and beyond. "There's only so much work in the Bay Area," said Samuels, who added that most local studios have slashed prices due to the economy and the general state of the scene. "But the goal is definitely to rejuvenate the scene here. San Francisco used to be that huge recording mecca for people to record. That died off in the last ten, twenty years." Now there's only **Skywalker Sound** in Marin and **Fantasy Studios** in Berkeley that cater to a similar clientele as Trilogy, he added.

While it may seem counter-intuitive to try and appeal to high-paying clients during a down-turned economy, apparently there is a demand for such a facility. Samuels said that their first two months were "slammed." Clientele so far have included **Kronos Quartet**, **Primus** (recording for *Guitar Hero*), **Adrienne Bailon** from **The Cheetah Girls**, and pianist **George Winston**. "It's surprisingly doing better than we expected," said Samuels. "So far so good. It's so hard to predict in this business how anything will go. We're filling a need that was empty for so long."

Miscellaneous Debris

The Independent, which typically hosts shows nearly every night of the week, doesn't have anything on its schedule from July 3 to August 4. But the calendar is full as usual after that until September 30. **Sarah Fink** of **Another Planet Entertainment**, which runs the venue, declined to comment on the issue. ... Facing declining CD sales and illegal online sharing, the major-label record industry is calling on the government to help them regulate the piracy. In an e-mail, **Jim Urie**, president and CEO of **Universal Music Group Distribution**, said the industry should also try to negotiate deals with Internet Service Providers. Dubbed "Music Rights Now," the effort's Facebook page has about 400 friends. ... Two Bay Area natives are finalists in **MTV**'s national search for a "Twitter Jockey." **Pegah Rashti** and **Ryan Carlos** are both from the South Bay, 22 years old, and Tweet as if their lives depended on it. Read our interviews with them at EastBayExpress.com/blogs/EarBud/. ... And **Xiu Xiu**'s **Jamie Stewart** and **Gamelan Sekar Jaya** are among the performers at **BAM/PFA**'s **L@TE: Friday Nights** series this summer. ●

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Ear Bud is culled from our music blog, Ear Bud.

POOP MEETS ARTISTRY

Gangster jazz, perplexing indie pop, and poop jokes.

Fol Chen

Part II: The New December

In 2006 **Blender.com** listed "The 50 Worst Things to Happen to Music," and number 50 was the Beatles' seminal album ***Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band***. Sacrilege? Yes, and that's part of the point. Many people maintain that it's one of the best albums ever. Others insist that its painstaking artistry and inclusive approach led other performers to devalue simplicity and spontaneity in rock 'n' roll (therefore ruining it).

Is this a roundabout way of implying that **Fol Chen**'s ***Part II: The New December*** is its very own *Sgt. Pepper*, a magnum opus it will never live up to? Well, yes and no. The crafty collective that is Fol Chen has fashioned a clever, ambitious album with a wee touch of majesty. Lots of work clearly went into this project and it shows. *December* is a blur of seemingly disparate styles and elements. Yet Fol Chen's unassuming knack for tunefulness, drollness, and restraint make this set enchanting instead of a pretentious chore. Take the fractured, slice-and-dice of "Adeline," which could be **Everything But the Girl** (winsome, urbane pop) having a friendly argument with **Laika** (creepy, earthy electronica). "Your Curtain Call" has diaphanous boy-girl harmonies that manage to be soothing yet unsettling. The sparse, folk-like "The Holes" could almost be one of the idyllic tracks on the **Beach Boys**' *Pet Sounds* were it not for the plaintive plucking of what sounds like an African *kora* (lute).

Part II culminates with the title track, which recalls the mini-symphonies of **Van Dyke Parks**. Vocals almost at a whisper, the high whine of a pedal steel guitar evoking windswept streets, an odd twang (guitar? harpsichord?) as a counter-melody, and an elegant baroque-ish flute. What's it all mean? Ya got me. But *The New December* is an alluring, pleasantly perplexing listen. (Asthmatic Kitty)

—Mark Keresman

Fol Chen plays Bottom of the Hill (1233 17th St., SF) Wednesday, July 7, 9 p.m. $12. BottomoftheHill.com

David Cross

Bigger and Blackerer

Comedian **David Cross** — who has been seen everywhere from ***Arrested Development*** to ***I'm Not There*** over the past few years — just released his first stand-up album since 2004. It's good, with one caveat: Unlike ***It's Not Funny*** (2004) and the sprawling classic ***Shut Up, You Fucking Baby!*** (2002), which were so brilliant they suddenly put him next in the line of great American comedians dating from **Lenny Bruce** to **Bill Hicks**, Cross' recorded work on ***Bigger and Blackerer*** isn't golden from start to finish.

What Bruce and Hicks usually accomplished — and Cross did this consistently on his previous albums — was the mighty duo of making listeners laugh hard and think harder. On *Bigger and Blackerer*, Cross repeatedly begs us to hit the "snooze" button with poop jokes and tales of drug abuse. He doesn't get to what he's great at — making fun of politics and religion — until halfway through the album. And even then, after a killer routine about **President Obama** hanging out in his basement as a kid with **William Ayers**, the **Reverend Wright**, and **Kim Jong-Il** planning a way to kill grandparents when he grows up, Cross takes his audience's cue and returns to the truly low-brow stuff. And this after Cross' feud with **Larry the Cable Guy**. (Sub Pop)

—Adam Perry

The Jazz Mafia Symphony

Brass, Bows, and Beats

Judging from the Facebook frenzy that followed, **Adam Theis**' hip-hop symphony must have been explosive when it premiered last year at the **Palace of Fine Arts Theatre**. Not that it's the first of its kind — **dAKAH Symphonic Hip-Hop Orchestra** has haunted Los Angeles for roughly twenty years — but it's definitely a crowning achievement for local bandleader Theis, heretofore known for his loose, cushion of funk-based jazz ensembles, **The Jazz Mafia**. Theis is a workaholic who occasionally gets spread thin between all his ongoing and sideman dates. (He's an accomplished trombonist.) The ***Brass, Bows, and Beats*** project forced him to hole away for several months, producing a score that mixed real brass and electronics into a sinuous whole.

In its totality, *Brass, Bows, and Beats* is pretty daunting. It comprises eight movements that apparently tells a story about San Francisco's urban landscape (the lyrics serve to create atmosphere, and if there is a coherent plotline, I didn't get it). Two evocative singers (**Karyn Paige**, **Chris McGee**, **Rich Armstrong**, and **Joe Bagale**, who also did the arrangements) converge with two rappers (Seneca and **Lyrics Born**) and two spoken word poets (**Dublin** and **Aima Paule**). He put the song on a score that owes more to **Stevie Wonder** than to big band composers of the past. The raps sound inessential, but the vocal parts are smooth and plaint and beautiful. (Check Bagale's hook on "Sweet Memory" — if I were him, I'd release it as a single.) And the music is fantastically cool, with its mix of bluesy seventh chords, sexy flat ninths, and breakneck string solos. "Sweet Memory Part 2" ends with a throbbing boom-bap drumbeat that pulses exactly like old school hip-hop. (Jazz Mafia)

—Rachel Swan

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Gondo Brothers

The Foreign Globester

The Foreign Globester is a fun album. Mostly hip-hop, but there are hints of rap and funk blended into the mix. Lyrics are witty and sharp, beats are tight, and there are even some hints of techno. With a hilarious transit theme (check out the band's web page for details), it's a smooth, accomplished release, ideal for the dance floor or the bar. (The Ogbo Entertainment Group)

Hawney Troof

Daggers at the Moon

Hawney Troof is a weird band. It is sort of an indie/electronic hybrid, with occasional hints of classic video-game music (although the band members somewhat inexplicably describe themselves as Ipop/Kpop). It's highly stylized, and therefore not for everyone. But it's more listenable than most experimental music. The vocals are pleasantly harmonic, and there's enough of a pop sensibility to lend it some mainstream appeal. (Retard Disco)

Cold Grave

Lycanthrope

This is fairly standard black metal. It's not bad — actually it's pretty good — it's just not particularly original. *Lycanthrope* is solid and competent through Growly vocals, aggressive riffing, pounding drums. The werewolf theme may help these guys find an audience among harder-edged goths, and the overall vibe is loud and powerful enough that they'd probably sound great live. The album grows on you. (Graveyard Records)

At Oakland Metro (630 3rd St., Oakland) on Saturday, July 3, 6:30 p.m. $17-$20

Audiopharmacy

U Forgot About Us

Cool and sophisticated, Audiopharmacy is a great band. *U Forgot About Us* is a hip-hop album, but there are a few unexpected touches. "Never Follow" has hints of Portishead, "Meditation I" has a clear reggae beat, and the background music on "Mama" is almost Indian. There are a lot of elements in play on this album, but it's never messy. Everything comes together seamlessly, producing a sound that's layered and complex. (self released)

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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

An Evening with Bob Dylan: Tickets go on sale on Thursday, July 8 at 10 am. Sat., Aug. 21, 5 p.m., $58.50. Monterey County Fairgrounds, 2004 Fairground Rd., Monterey.

Spoonman Day: Tickets go on sale on Monday, July 5 at 10 am. Wed., Oct. 20, 2:30 p.m., tba. Palace of Fine Arts, 3301 Lyon St.

THURSDAY 1

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Avett Brothers Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $39.50-$59.50

Dennis Dove The Saddle Rack, 8 pm, free

Israel Roots in the Country: Gerry Tenney & The Hard Times Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50, $19.50

The Saddlecats w/ Western Swing, Spreckels, 6:30 pm, free

Roots & Fourth of July Freedom Blues Women Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $16, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Skip Resnick and Francesco Blues Quinn's Lighthouse, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Dave Kenley piano covers of Weezer oldies, jazz & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 8 pm, free

High Sierra Music Festival featuring Widespread Panic, The Black Crowes, the Avett Brothers, Gomez, Femi Kuti and Wonder Fever, Woman Earth and more, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 11:45 am, $50-$195

Dennis Hipland w/ Chicken Little, Slow Moving Lion & Johnny's Wonder, 924 Gilman, 7 pm, $5-$8

Odraliavators w/ Gal Pistol T, Local Hero, Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $10, $7 students

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Indo Jahz 7 Bob Santos Plaza, 8:30 pm, free

Herman Marshall Joe Ella, El Patio, The New Parish, 8 pm, $12, $8 advance

Throwback Thursdays Shadow Nightclub, 7 pm, $4

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Pramoda Old Oakland, 5:30 pm, free

Pellejo Seco Era Art Bar and Lounge, 9:30 pm, tba

Roots Night w/ DJ Eddie T, plus Roots lessons, Kimball's Bar & Grill, 9 pm, $10

Women Roots Heritage w/ Bros. St. Roots La Peña Cultural Center, 8:30 pm, $27, $25

Women Drummers International Presents: Born to Drum featuring Edwina Lee Tyler, Ubaka Hill, Lee Chavez-Ovie, & more, La Peña Cultural Center, 7:30 pm, $22, $15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Roots Harmed Moon, 5 & 10 pm, $15

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Merriment Memory And Teeth Beats w/ Stephen Kent, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Martini Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 pm, free

Rootsisland Yerba Roots Bluesfest, 12:30 pm, free

Kim Nalley & Stanislas Intense Bruce Rubin, 8 pm, $30

Let's Go Ramblin' w/ Lavay Smith & the Red Hot Skillet Lickers, Yerba Buena Gardens, 5 pm, free

The Martini Hipsters La Colonial, 7-10 pm, free

Bluesle Gaffle Caffe Trieste, 8 pm, free

Jalandi Vladimir Johnny Vidacovich Trio Cada, 10 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Chautauqua featuring Cake, Meg Day, & The California Honeydrops, The Independent, 8 pm, $50, $500

Blue Moving Amnesia, 7 pm, free

Johnny Z & The Wanderers rockabilly, honkytonk plus rock, country & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 4-8 pm, 9-1:30 am, free

Sports of Kings w/ Free Energy, Grant, American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20

Wonder Arrow w/ Rube & The Highgrounders, Red Devil Lounge, 8 pm, $8-$8

Pigs w/ Pins of Light, Purgatory, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $8

Price Img w/ Fandanceline, Homogenic Parkman, & RootsPoe, Bluesbar, 9 pm, $5

Bob Dam Gaffle w/ Spirit Agnew, Hemlock, 9 pm, $5

Street & Salvage Co. w/ Dead Beats, Carpenters, Honeymoon, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

Wallpaper 330 Ritch, 10 pm, $10, $12

Wonder Girls The Warfield, 8 pm, tba

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Broadwayroadway Entertainment Presents: Busta Rhymes & Xzibit w/ Fayva, Bluesbar, DNA Lounge, 7:30 pm, $40

Dam Funk w/ Master Blaster, Nia Jewel, & Roots Mission, Mezzanine, 9 pm, $15

Mo' Rootz & Zoop Boys Maggie McGarry's, 9 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Bob & Los Bees Mojito, 9:30 pm, free

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$30

FRIDAY 2

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Dennis Dove The Saddle Rack, 8 pm, free

Roots Night w/ Skip Henderson & The Starboard Watch, Spreckels, 8:30 pm, free

Roots & Fourth of July Weekend Blues Women featuring James Cotton Superharp Band, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18, $24

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Grin, DB Hemmed Party w/ Jim Messina Trio, Jim Kosov/Angela Hsu Duo, Totally Intense Frontal Mind Gate Net, 8 pm, $5-$10 Bluesbar

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

First Friday Follies burlesque night w/ MC Margaret Frances & artists TBA, Stork Club, 9 pm, free

Jazzschool Newtown Youth Program Extravaganza Jazzschool, 6:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Dave Kenley piano covers of Weezer oldies, jazz & pop, Peter's Restaurant, 8 pm, free

High Sierra Music Festival featuring Widespread Panic, The Flesh, Cultured, The Avett Brothers, Heaven, Femi Kuti And Wonder Fever, Woman Earth and more, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 10 am, $50-$195

Wallpaper Day w/ The Bluesbar-Fox, Dis-Shaker, & Wonder Harmony, Uptown, 9 pm, free

Laura Weems & Jefferson Hinton Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50, $18.50

Lovel Bros. w/ Mammoth Cultural Union & Thieves, Street Walker & Steak Always, 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, free

M.A.I.M.e.D Fest: Day 1 featuring Fog of War, Il Malacchio, From Hell, Zombie Holocaust, Falling to Pieces, Mudface, & Anvil Chorus, Oakland Metro Opera House, 8:30 pm, $12-$20

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Mosaicq w/ The Understudies, Young Sally & DJ AMC, Beats on Telegraph, 9 pm, $10, $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Mystic Roots Band w/ Hypnotic Vibrations, Dose, Shotgun Dave Low, 9 pm, $8, $10

Jungo Bluesbar w/ Dom Willet, Pramoda, 8:35 pm, $10

Jungo Bluesbar w/ Dom Willet, Pramoda, 9:35 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Hammer Jumble w/ Bay Kay And His Bonds and Underground Shock, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12

Derek Hughes Wonder & Stone, 8 & 10 pm, $29

Classical & Opera

San Francisco Opera Presents: La Fanciulla del West (The Girl of the Golden West) War Memorial Opera House, 8 pm, $20-$275

Experimental & Avant-Garde

Memorial Sparkadia w/ The Cameron Social And & Pleasure Club, Dave Weimer & His Entourage, Bottom Shop, 8 pm, $10, $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Beach Martini Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

Moya Wonder Jazz Pramoda, Top of the Mark, 9 pm, $10

Eddie Pasternak Duo w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-9 pm, free

Joyce Roots & Hammed Herbbook Jingo Ristorante, 8 pm-midnight, free

Kim Nalley & Stanislas Person Bruce Wines, 8 pm, $30

[illegible] Roots Tenzing Restaurant Rue Cada, 10 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

Stone Bluesbar w/ White Girl Lust, Alena, & Social King, Mezzanine, 9 pm, $12, $15

Restaurant w/ Never Fever The Trouble, 9 pm, $4

Drazaneo w/ Laura Kowloon, Blues City, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $8

Hot Lunch w/ Glass Wizard, Only Sons, Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $10

Ger Long w/ Shenz, Landmine Marathon, Blackride Of Calcutta, & Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $5-$8

Johnny Z & The Wanderers rockabilly, honkytonk plus rock, country & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 5:30 pm-1:30 am, free

Nottingham w/ The Riot Before, Roots sounds, Tree Patrol, 9 pm, $8

Steve Train w/ Matt Sinclair, Young the Giant, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $14, $16

Young Gun, Hemlock, Tree Roots Club featuring Sandi, Tree Bar Ninja & BluesNYC, DNA Lounge, 7:30 pm, $20, $18 in advance

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Dude w/ Babe Nut Cuts, Dimitri Wiggins, & DJ Chauncey, Stern's, 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Ottmar Liebert & Luna Negra Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$30

SATURDAY 3

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Dennis Dove The Saddle Rack, 8:30 pm, free

Roots & Fourth of July Weekend Blues Women featuring James Cotton Superharp Band, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18, $24

PICKS

Bicasso

Profligate lifestyles are a hallmark of mainstream hip-hop, but in the backpacker scene, many artists still ground their authenticity in their principles. A prime example is **Living Legends** rapper **Bicasso**, who uses a spoken-wordy rap style, hews to political themes, and poaches his musical ideas from jazz or blues. He's a rare breed of emcee who started on drum machines but has segued into jazz, and, as a result, he's genuinely interested in connecting hip-hop to the entrenched lineage of black music. Bicasso runs Saturday night jam sessions at **EastSide Cultural Center**. He's recorded with **Howard Wiley's Angola Project**. He even helped conceptualize [illegible] jazz band for the 2009 **Malcolm X Jazz and Arts Festival**. Seldom does a rapper maneuver so well through the jazz world and still manage to cut his own cloth. Bicasso plays Friday, July 2, at **Blakes on Telegraph** (2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley) with **The Understudies**, **Young Gully**, and **DJ RMC**. 9 p.m. $6-$8. BlakesOnTelegraph.com. — *Rachel Swan*

San Francisco Opera

It's not in the East Bay this week, but **San Francisco Opera** is hopping. In addition to performances of *Faust* and ***The Girl of the Golden West*** (if I had to choose only one, I'd take the latter), the opera and chorus present a free concert on Independence Day. Featuring two superb *Faust* principals, soprano **Patricia Racette** and bass **John Relyea**, SFO's **Celebrating of American Music** will mix American operatic and orchestral classics with some inescapable patriotic tunes. Get there early. **Stern Grove** (2750 19th Ave., San Francisco) on Sunday, July 4, 2 p.m., free. 415-252-6252 or SternGrove.org. — *Jason Victor Serinus*

2010 Lilith Tour

After nearly eleven years, **Sarah McLachlan** is dusting off the Lilith Tour just in time for the summer festival season. As was the case in the past, McLachlan will headline each concert, accompanied by eleven artists culled from the Lilith Local Talent Search. For the Bay Area that means **Terra Naomi**, along with a bill rounded out by **Heart**, **Miranda Lambert**, **Colbie Caillat**, **A Fine Frenzy**, **The Submarines**, **Marina and the Diamonds**, **The Bangles**, **Susan Justice**, **Kitten**, and **Ann Atomic**. And in keeping with the event's original philanthropic commitment, the tour will be donating $1 from every ticket sold in that market to a chosen local charity. The lucky San Francisco organization will be the **Bay Area Women's and Children's Center**, whose representatives will receive a fat check from McLachlan on stage at **Shoreline Amphitheatre** (One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View). The Lilith Tour happens Monday, July 5, 2:30 p.m. $33-$136.50. *LiveNation.com*. — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Sarah McLachlan.

Richard Bona

Richard Bona came to the US to explore his fascination with jazz, and soon became the musical director of **Harry Belafonte's** touring band. Born in Cameroon, the bassist is a master of jazz, *makossa* (a dance rhythm that combines jazz and indigenous styles), high-life, reggae, and more. His first album, *Scenes from My Life*, introduced his patented blend of West African dance music and jazz. Since then he's added funk, samba, R&B, and Latin influences to his music to create a smooth, propulsive groove that pleases both dancers and hard-core jazz buffs. **Richard Bona** and his band play at **Oakland Yoshi's** (510 Embarcadero West) Tuesday, July 6, 8 p.m. ($26) & 10 p.m. ($16). Yoshis.com. — *j. poet*

Classical & Opera

Target Independence Day Celebration featuring [illegible] East Bay Symphony, [illegible] Jazz Workshops, & Hilltop Community Church Choir. [illegible] Pavilion, 6:30 pm, free.

Experimental & Avant-Garde

[illegible] Music w/ [illegible]. 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8 pm, $5-$10 sliding scale.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

George [illegible] Summit Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $27.50, $23.50.

The Comedic Side of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy w/ California Flight. Johnny B's, 8 pm, $15-$25, includes free food.

Scott Young & Tom [illegible] Sextet [illegible], 8:30 pm, free.

Rock & Pop

The Constant Tourists w/ [illegible], The Midnamers. Starry Plough, 9 pm, $7.

[illegible] [illegible] Pedro's Restaurant, 5 pm, free.

[illegible] Show featuring [illegible] Crushed, Freud the Fish, & Mind Trap. 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $7-$10.

High Sierra Music Festival featuring Widespread Panic, The Black Crowes, The Avett Brothers, [illegible] Positive Force, [illegible] and more. Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 10 am, $50-$185.

M.A.I.M.a.D Fest: Day 2 featuring [illegible]

[illegible] Lungs of a Blind [illegible], [illegible], Athena, & Absent Society. Oakland Metro Opera House, 6:30 pm, $17-$20.

Music at Weekes Park with The [illegible] Hayward Public Library, Weekes Branch, 2 pm, free.

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Visions w/ [illegible] High Power. [illegible], 9:30 pm, $12.

Live Reggae Night w/ rotating live bands. Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free.

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $22.

[illegible] Italian folk music w/ [illegible]. Caffe Trieste, 10:30 am-12:15 pm, free.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The 26th Annual Fillmore Jazz Festival Fillmore Street (between [illegible] and Eddy), 10 am, free.

[illegible] [illegible] of pop-culture figures in which Star Wars travels around [illegible] pm, $25-$77.

Eddie [illegible] Duo w/ guests. Yoshi's San Francisco, 6-8 pm, free.

Josh [illegible] Unit Coda, 10 pm, $12.

Kim Nalley & [illegible] Boat Room, 8 pm, $38.

[illegible] & his Little Big Band Boat Room, 10:30 pm, free.

Rock & Pop

The 5th [illegible] Big Two [illegible] Fest featuring [illegible], Fine Peggies, Slow Trucks, [illegible] Child, & Wolf John Thompson. [illegible], 8:30 pm, $8.

[illegible] & The [illegible] w/ Westwood & Willow, [illegible]. Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12.

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Metal. Free [illegible], 5 pm, $6.

Johnny Z & His [illegible] [illegible] Gold Dust Lounge, 9:30 pm-1:30 am, free.

Midnight Strangers w/ Johnny [illegible]. Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $6.

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Hemlock Tavern, 6 pm, $8.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 5 pm, $5-$8.

Pinback [illegible]/The Bob and Zach Show w/ Little White Teeth. The Independent, 9 pm, $20.

The Sparkles w/ Lost Puppy. Thee Parkside, 3 pm, free.

[illegible] w/ Grand [illegible]. Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $10.

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 1/2 Neck Pony. Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $8.

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] & the East Bay All-Stars w/ [illegible], 5 pm, $14.

L.Y.F.E. [illegible] w/ [illegible], DJ [illegible], DJ [illegible]

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Femi Kuti The Fillmore, 9 pm, $35
[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$20
Lounge By The Bay featuring J-Boog, [illegible] Kisimbi & more, Pier 23 Cafe, 1 pm, $13

SUNDAY 4

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Jimmy's All-Star Super Sessions Jimmy hosts a different blues band every week, Pete's [illegible], 8 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Radio Disney Presents the 24th Annual 4th of July Freedom Spectacular featuring the San Francisco Symphony Shoreline Amphitheatre, 4 pm, $33.50-$38.50, $14.50 kids 10 and under

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jim Freeman Jazz Quintet Popular & vibe-[illegible] jazz, Coffee Mill, 3-6 pm, free
Louis Armstrong Birthday Celebration w/ Mal Sharpe's Big Money in Jazz Band & Lady [illegible] Yoshi's, 1 pm, $10
[illegible] Trio [illegible], 6:30-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

High Water Blues Festival featuring Widespread Panic, The [illegible], The Avett Brothers, [illegible], [illegible] and Thievery [illegible], [illegible] and more, Plumas-Sierra County Fairgrounds, 10 am, $90-$195

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $35-$40
[illegible] Ship's Tavern, 6:30 pm, free
Songwriter Sundays [illegible] perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm-midnight, $5
Twang Sunday Independence Day Jamboree! featuring The [illegible] & the [illegible], Thee Parkside, 3 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Golden Gate Park Band Golden Gate Park, 1 pm, free
San Francisco Opera Stern Grove, 2 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

Lounge Fillmore w/ Future Perfect & Lounge guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 am-3 pm, $39 [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The 26th Annual Fillmore Jazz Festival Fillmore Street between Jackson and Eddy, 10 am, free
[illegible] [illegible], 7 & 9 pm, $25-$31
[illegible] Hotel Rex, 1 pm, $30
Kurt Ribak Trio [illegible], 6-9 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $5
Johnny Z & the Camaros [illegible] rockabilly, country & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 4:30 pm, 1:30 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Dub Mission [illegible] w/ [illegible], Papa [illegible], Anthony [illegible], Elbo Room, 9 pm, $6
"Salsa Sundays" w/ [illegible] salsa dance lesson, El Rio, 3 pm, $8
[illegible] [illegible], 7 pm, $[illegible]

MONDAY 5

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Uptown, [illegible] live [illegible] w/ [illegible] Street Music, Uptown, 8 pm, $6

Rock & Pop

Lilith featuring Sarah McLachlan, Heart, Miranda Lambert, Colbie Caillat, A Fine Frenzy & more, Shoreline Amphitheatre, 2:30 pm, $38-$133.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The [illegible] Duo with A.J. Ship's Tavern, 7:30 pm, free

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263.
[illegible] 1410 [illegible] Ave., Albany, 510-528-1237.
924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926.
[illegible] Lounge 492 9th St., Oakland, 510-444-2307.
Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com.
The Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-8505.
[illegible] 2465 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-548-1125.
[illegible]'s 711 [illegible] Ave., Martinez, 925-228-8685.
Art House Gallery & Cultural Center 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-472-3170.
Ashkenaz 1317 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5054.
[illegible] 4825 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-460-0777.
[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1790.
[illegible] 513 17th St., Oakland, 510-444-2266.
[illegible] for the Arts 1501 [illegible] St., Alameda, 510-523-8017.
The [illegible] 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-848-3625.
Blakes on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-0886.
Caffe Trieste 1500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-5198.
[illegible] 178 [illegible] Ave., [illegible], 925-240-5800.
Club 1220 1220 Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550.
Club 25 2111 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425.
[illegible] 426 3rd St., Oakland, 510-451-4105.
Club X 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-879-3757.
[illegible] Lounge 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-463-2048.
[illegible] Sports Bar 1524 [illegible], [illegible], 925-932-5300.
Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-385-6785.
Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-338-4958.
[illegible] [illegible], Oakland, 510-[illegible]-3050.
First Congregational Church 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696.
First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-3555.
Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, TheFoxOakland.com.
[illegible] 111 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward, 510-783-1700.
Johnny V's [illegible] 2070 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-544-2020.
[illegible] UC Berkeley, [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-0808.
[illegible] 3426 [illegible] St., [illegible] 510-845-3235.
Jazzschool 2087 Addison St., Berkeley, 510-845-5373.
Jewish Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-0237.
[illegible] 2223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-3385.
Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277.
[illegible] 1458 Webster St., Oakland, 510-238-0788.
Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-6401.
[illegible] 1049 Solano Ave., Berkeley.
Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464.
Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5888.
Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-601-0000.
La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568.
[illegible] 3309 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2373.
Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4793.
[illegible] Lounge 3720 [illegible] Ave., [illegible], 510-523-4399.
Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland.
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677.
Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th St., Oakland, 510-839-6169.
[illegible] 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-[illegible].
Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd., Saratoga, 408-741-2822.
[illegible] 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344.
Oakland [illegible] 500 12th St., Oakland, 510-238-8935.
Oakland Metro Operahouse 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-1146.
[illegible] 1000 Cotton Way, Oakland, 510-569-2121.
[illegible] 1272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-725-8595.
Paramount Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland, 510-465-6400.
The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland, 510-444-7474, TheNewParish.com.
Peter's [illegible] 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-284-7117.
[illegible] 435 13th St., Oakland.
[illegible] 1700 Clement Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9196.
[illegible] 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-1114.
[illegible] 4291 [illegible] Rd., Oakland, 510-919-0411.
[illegible] 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159.
[illegible] 2411 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 130, San Ramon.
Shoreline Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000.
[illegible] 2474 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1300.
[illegible] 2580 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-977-1888.
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082.
Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174.
[illegible] 464 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-553-9809.
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100.
[illegible] Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-9585.
Wente Vineyards Restaurant 5050 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450.
[illegible] UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4200.
[illegible] 6550 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3820.
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200.
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-9988.

SAN FRANCISCO

330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574.
Amnesia 853 Valencia St., 415-970-0012.
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200.
[illegible] Social Club 917 Folsom St., 415-414-1585.
[illegible] Lounge 1 [illegible] Pl., 415-348-8150.
[illegible] Restaurant and Wine [illegible] 444 Brannan St., 415-904-4100.
[illegible] 2700 [illegible] St., 415-346-8323.
[illegible] 500 Club 1025 Columbus Ave., 415-474-6385.
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St., 415-292-1583.
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455.
Bruno's 2389 Mission St., 415-643-5200.
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St., 415-861-5016.
Cafe International 508 Haight St., 415-552-7390.
[illegible] 530 Valencia St., 415-861-3495.
Cat Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-431-3332.
Catalyst Cocktails 312 Harriet St., 415-621-1722.
The [illegible] 1 Sutter St., 415-441-6318.
[illegible] 9 [illegible] St., 415-868-1221.
[illegible] 3111 Mission St., 415-561-2800.
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave., 415-864-6000.
[illegible] 2801 Leavenworth St., 415-771-[illegible]0.
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409.
[illegible] 2450 3rd St., 415-[illegible].
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880.
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074.
[illegible] 2700 16th St., 415-437-0240.
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325.
Elbo Room 647 Valencia St., 415-552-7788.
[illegible] Lounge 1008 Geary St., 415-673-1352.
The [illegible] 450 [illegible] St., 415-346-6000.
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000.
[illegible] 520 4th St., 415-285-1888.
The [illegible] 1300 Van Ness Ave., 415-673-5416.
[illegible] Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St., 415-885-0750.
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923.
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave., 415-392-4400.
Hotel Utah 500 4th St., 415-546-6300.
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421.
[illegible] & Grill 3600 Geary Blvd., 415-386-4873.
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave., 415-291-8255.
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St., 415-954-0777.
The [illegible] 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994.
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] Lounge St., 415-864-5585.
[illegible] Lounge 500 [illegible] St., 415-[illegible].
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St., 415-647-2888.
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880.
The [illegible] 50 Mint Plaza Ave.
Mill Valley [illegible] 1501 [illegible] St., 415-458-5231.
Park Chalet [illegible] 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439.
[illegible] 5600 [illegible] St., 415-648-0110.
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-362-5125.
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695.
[illegible] 158 [illegible] St., 415-861-2011.
Rockit Room 406 Clement St., 415-387-6343.
[illegible] 722 [illegible] St.
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275.
Uptown 200 Capp St., 415-621-8024.
Slim's 333 11th St., 415-255-0333.
[illegible] 850 Columbus Ave., 415-550-8196.
Stud Bar 399 9th St., 415-863-6623.
[illegible] Lounge 2183 Mission St., 415-255-1221.
Supperclub 657 Harrison St., 415-348-0900.
Swig Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292.
Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-252-1330.
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill, 999 California St., 415-616-6916.
Tunnel Top 601 Bush St., 415-986-8900.
[illegible] 442 Broadway St., 415-118-2228.
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722.
[illegible] Restaurant and Lounge 1001 Sutter St., 415-863-5025.
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600.

C&C

Richard Bona Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $30, $35

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

La Jazz Duo Le Colonial, 7 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Johnny Z & the Camaros rotating members play rock, country, & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 8:30 pm-1:30 am, free

Shakin Shaid w/ Cheddar Cover, [illegible], & [illegible], Kimo's, 9 pm, $5-$8

The [illegible] La Las w/ Sam [illegible] and the Guns, The Smalls, El Rio, 7 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Grupo Falso Baiano w/ Jovino Santos Neto, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $16

TUESDAY 6

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Maria Muldaur Eccles Santos Plaza, 6:30 pm, free

Richard Bona Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $30, $35

Sauce Piquante Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10

Ronnie Healy Peter's Restaurant, 7:30-9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring students from the Berkeley music school, Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Kapgoodl w/ Sunday Shoot, Chuck Johnson, Kenyon's Ivy Room, 8 pm, [illegible]

Nymbell's Music Dee Genaros featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more, Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Shelby Lynne Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $35

Bumblebee Biscuits & Blues, 8 pm, $14

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The Klassy Kids Rrazz Room, 8 pm, $35, $40

Marty Cypers Pier 23, 8:30 pm, free

Bernie Snow playing soft jazz piano, Top of the Mark, 6:30-11:30 pm, $5-$10

Tuesday Night Jump! Stompy Jones plays swing jazz, plus a swing dance, Bimbo's Boom Club, 8 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Bobby Long w/ Fix Is Me, Trouble Dust, [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $12

Dodling w/ City Beast, Easy Tiger & the Soundtrack, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $6

Guitar Wizards Of The Gambo Kimo's, 9 pm, $5-$8

Johnny Z & the Camaros rotating members play rock, country, & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 8:30 pm-1:30 am, free

Leopold And His Fiction w/ [illegible] Aquarium, Kacey Anderson, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $6

Snow Cities w/ Bye Bye [illegible], Lucky Cloud, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $6

Spell Talk w/ Cosmic Disco Show, Blue Tape, El Rio, 8 pm, $5

Surprise Doctor Stood w/ Paul Tarphy, Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Cab A Bonita w/ The HoldUp, DJ Nick, Radio Robot, 8 pm, $18, $22

WEDNESDAY 7

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

California Cowboys The Bonnie Buck, 8 pm, free

Whiskey [illegible] old-time and bluegrass, [illegible] Pub, 9 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Ebey Sauce Presents: 8 Women to Fear-Dora Azhakela Yoshi's, 1 pm, $20

Lisa Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 1:30 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Dave Hasley piano covers of classics, oldies, jazz, & pop, [illegible] Restaurant, 9 pm, free

Embers w/ Evangelist, Pillage, & Fourth World, Stork Club, 8 pm, $5

Pirate Cat Radio [illegible] Big Talk: Locals Only Live Weekly Showcase w/ Songs for Snakes, Light Rail, [illegible] & more, Uptown, 9 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Joe Bagale Oakland City Center, noon, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Orquestra Universal Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Bluegrass Country Fever w/ dance & [illegible], Plough and Stars, 9 pm, free

Dave Party Steel [illegible] Party, Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $15

Shelby Lynne Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $25

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Sauce Diamond Babylon musical revue and spoof of pop-culture figures in [illegible] Snow [illegible], dance around the world at Bimbo of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$17

Rex Richard and the Bambo Bambo Top of the Mark, 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Joel Summers Cafe, 1 pm, $7

The Grape Skin Rrazz Room, 8 pm, $35, $40

Rock & Pop

Beehive Spirit w/ Satellite Court, Happy Talk, Elbo Room, 8 pm, $6

Fat Cove w/ Jhameel, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $12

Royal Valley Bow and Party featuring Kaphon, Amanda & R. & The Real, [illegible] Stork, 8 pm, free

Johnny Z & the [illegible] rotating members play rock, country, & R&B, Gold Dust Lounge, 8:30 pm-1:30 am, free

Logan Bambo @ the Hemlock w/ The [illegible] [illegible], Hypnotic Collectors, El Rio, 8 pm, $5

The Mains w/ The Century, Slim's, 7 pm, $18

Dora w/ The Rec Set, Colony Collapse, Kimo's, 9 pm, $3-$6

The Owl Mag, Shoot Pop and Futuresounds Present: The Bambo featuring Ali & The Sex, What Lou's Says, & 14 Tet, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $5

Project Unnamed w/ Ayla, The Stood Up, DNA Lounge, 7 pm, $15, $20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Freddy Clemente and la Banda Latin [illegible], Mediterranean, & contemporary folk, Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

WED 6/30 8:30 pm $12 $11 advance — BLUES "Sweet & Low Down Wednesdays" MARK HUMMEL & THE BLUES SURVIVORS with special guest RUSTY ZINN 8:00 pm Blues dance lesson

THU 7/1 8:00 pm $10 $7 [illegible] — ALTERNATIVE POP/ROCK THIRSTBUSTERS GIRL NAMED T LOCAL HERO

FRI 7/2 8:30 pm $10 — AFROBEAT · FOLK/ROCK/ROOTS ZENBO JUNCTION from Brooklyn CLINC WILLIES

SAT 7/3 9:30 pm $12 — REGGAE INNER VISIONS from Virgin Islands + COMANCHE HIGH POWER

TUE 7/6 8:30 pm $10 — CAJUN/CREOLE SAUCE PIQUANTE 8:00 pm Cajun/zydeco dance lesson

WED 7/7 8:00 pm $10 — EAST COAST SWING "Sweet & Low Down Wednesdays" MOOD SWING ORCHESTRA 8:00 pm E. Coast Swing dance lesson

THU 7/8 8:00 pm $10 — GRATEFUL DEAD NIGHT DEAD DREAMS GHOST TOWN SOUND

FRI 7/9 8:00 pm $15 $12 advance — AFRO-BRAZILIAN LATIN FUNK SAMBADÁ + MUCHE AXÉ

SAT 7/10 8:30 pm $13 — REGGAE MARRAK Jamaican national drumming champion MR. MAJESTIC EARL ZERO

[illegible]

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$2 DRAFT BEERS
$3 PBR TALL CANS

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YOSHIS.COM

oakland
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Oakland, California 94607

Yoshi's Named Top 100 Bay Area Restaurants 2010 –San Francisco Chronicle

tonight! Wed., June 30 Vacaville Christian High School's RADIO JAZZ
July 1-3 This Weekend! OTTMAR LIEBERT & LUNA NEGRA
this weekend! Sun. July 4 KIOSK
next week! Mon. July 5 One Night Only! RICHARD BONA
July 6-7 Next Week! SHELBY LYNNE
Thurs. July 8 (8pm) JON CLEARY
Thurs. July 8 (10:30pm) Open Dance Floor! SISTER CAROL
July 9-11 (Open Dance Floor!) ELIO REVE Y SU CHARANGON Direct from Cuba – Only 2nd US Appearance in 15 years!
Mon. July 12 WOBBLY WORLD
Tues. July 13 LEON RUSSELL
Wed. July 14 FOME USA OLDOOPS SHOWCASE SPECIAL GUEST featuring Roy T. Ron Joseph and The Steppen Stones feat. [illegible] LaFay and Martin B

Wed., June 30 tonight! Brazilian Vocal Chock JOYCE MORENO "One of the greatest singers of all time!" Antonio Carlos Jobim
this weekend! Yoshi's Fourth of July Weekend BLUES FESTIVAL
Thurs. July 1 CHRIS THOMAS KING
Fri-Sat. July 2-3 JAMES COTTON SUPERHARP BAND
Sun. July 4 this weekend! Louis Armstrong Birthday Celebration with MAL SHARPE'S BIG MONEY IN GUMBO & LADY MEMFIS
Mon. July 5 next week! GRUPO FALSO BAIANO with special guest Jovino Santos Neto
Tues. July 6 next week! One Night Only! RICHARD BONA
Wed. July 7 Open Dance Floor! CHUY VARELA presents A TRIBUTE TO FRANCISCO AGUABELLA
Thurs. July 8 KATHRYN KEATS featuring [illegible]

Announcing a new VIP Membership Club for Yoshi's Oakland + SF • Details at www.yoshis.com/vip

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SINGER-SONGWRITER
SEU JORGE
& ALMAZ
AUGUST 10

THE WARFIELD

THE DEAD WEATHER
HARLEM
JULY 22

THE COOL TOUR
AS I LAY DYING
UNDEROATH
BETWEEN THE BURIED AND ME
BLESSTHEFALL
THE ACACIA STRAIN
ARCHITECTS
CANCER BATS
MAN OF AGES
AUGUST 1

PORCUPINE TREE
AUGUST 11

GHOSTLAND OBSERVATORY
AUGUST 20

CROWDED HOUSE
LAWRENCE ARABIA
AUGUST 23

SOMETHING CORPORATE
AUGUST 24

MELISSA ETHERIDGE
AUGUST 28

SLASH
FEAT. MYLES KENNEDY
AUGUST 29

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 1

EAST BAY

Bombshell w/ DJ Salvatore Valentino, Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 9:30 pm, free
Chun Fever w/ Sensen Gold [illegible] spinning reggae & dancehall, Shashamane Restaurant, [illegible] pm, free
DJ Jerry Ross spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more. Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free
DJ Trick spinning lounge, Levi Sancarlo Lounge, 8 pm-2 am, free
Flight Time featuring DJ Dan Guago, Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free
Boogie Moon w/ DJ Donovan spinning reggae, African salsa, cumbia, Brazilian, boogie, disco, & funk, Kitty's, 1 pm, free
Shaken DJ Zach & rival MC Kaveh plus atomic hip-hop, reggae, & soul, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free
Tasty ladies' night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B, Club 21, 9 pm, $12-$15
Thirsty Thursdays w/ DJs Wooly Grub & Funky Frost spinning '80s flashbacks, hip-hop, & old school, Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, free
Lounge Dance Sessions featuring DJs Carlos Mena and Cecil, Bowen and Bar, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrolicious w/ DJ'N -ebo, Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz, & guests spinning Afro tropical funk, Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6
Bingotopia by Bass $3 Bass Ale during Bingo, The Knockout, 7:30-10 pm, free
Collide w/ Marcus Visher, Beatnasty, & more, Rickshaw Stop, 9 pm, $13-$20
DJ Sarrah & Magabaz spinning world music, [illegible], 9 pm, free
Laser Beams w/ DJ White Heat and Lauren spinning space disco, The Knockout, 10 pm, free
Lounge rotating DJs, The EndUp, 10 pm, $10
Represent w/ Ron the Vinyl Archaeologist and [illegible] spinning hip-hop classics, funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, house, & breaks, Icon Ultra Lounge, 10 pm, $5
Toppa Top Thursdays w/ Jah Warrior Shelter [illegible] the Irie Dole, & I-Vier spinning reggae, Club Six, 9 pm-2 am, $5 free before 11 p.m. w/ RSVP

FRIDAY 2

EAST BAY

Ima Joh w/ DJs Eddy Baum and his friends spinning live reggae and dub jams, Whiskey Lounge, 10 pm, free
Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15
DJ MTM & Sure Shot Gets Lounge Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, free
Downtempo and Lounge w/ rotating DJs, Sushi Groove, 7:30-11:30 pm, free
Friday Night Salsa w/ Good Tiz spinning salsa, La Estrellita Cafe, 10 pm, $5
Spinning House Music w/ Rodeo DJ, Club 1220, 9 pm, $8
Mandala weekly in-house DJ [illegible] Moments Music, 7:30 pm, free
Old-School hip-hop and funk, [illegible], 9 pm, free
Quixotic DJ Joe Quixx spins funk, Latin, & dub, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free
Reggae Obsession Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free
Rowdy Fridays DJ Lash & Fat Rob spin R&B & soul, Kimball's Carnival, 8 pm, $5
Vybz & IV w/ DJ Tofu, Lenox & Nervic spinning roots, lovers, dancehall, & soul, Shashamane Restaurant, 10 pm, $5

SAN FRANCISCO

Cameron Club DJs spin house music w/ Latin & Brazilian beats, Cha-Ba, 10 pm, $6, free before 10:30 p.m.
DJ Danny Slaughter spinning rock, hip-hop, new wave, R&B, '80s, Queen & pop, Swig Bar, 8 pm, free
Element Fridays w/ rotating DJs spinning hip-hop, R&B, rock, & more, Element Lounge, 9 pm, $10
Fridays at the Red Devil w/ DJs Carmen & Miranda spinning soul, funk, & world, Il Bar, 6-9 pm, free
Independence featuring Jeep, John Askew, John Beaver, Aquarelle, & more, 1015 Folsom, 10 pm, $10-$15
Mandala weekly in-house DJ series, Amnesia Music, 6-9 pm, free
Spinning Spinning Sanaaria Family Vibes live bhangra w/ Sunday spinning Mas Dholi Dhamaka, Surya Dub, & DJ Ben[illegible]'s Sandlewood Sessions, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $8-$11
SMILE rotating live performers plus DJ Mel Markel spinning rock, roots, French pop, & disco, The Knockout, 10 pm, free
Strictly Videos featuring VJ DJs spinning music videos from every [illegible], 111 Minna Street Gallery, $5-$10
Vila Fridays w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and around the world spinning hip-hop, Vessel, 9 pm, $10

SATURDAY 3

EAST BAY

Club Blondefoot w/ DJs Ruff, Chris, Olga T & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B, Bowen and Bar, 9 pm, $5-$12
Delancey Blakoe on [illegible], 9 pm, $5
Downtempo and Lounge w/ rotating DJs, Sushi Groove, 7:30-11:30 pm, free
Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ Phil, White Horse, 9 pm, $5
La Boca Latin Latino cowboy night w/ DJs spinning salsa, cumbia, & banda, plus hot go-go vaqueras, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15
Mob Dance & Dance w/ DJs Max Dance and Farmer's Market cocktails & 2:00 p.m., Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free
Hoop Dance Party spinning DJs Black [illegible] bud, Stork Club, 9 pm, free

PICK

Dam Funk and Nite Jewel

The July 4th holiday weekend usually means a dip in DJing, as many city dwellers typically decamp to the boohs, the woods, or other cities for their summer vacations. If you're not getting all funky up in Yosemite this weekend, then we highly recommend getting funky with **Dam Funk** in the Bay. Known as Los Angeles' "Ambassador of Boogie Funk," Dam Funk (pronounced with a long A, like "Dame") is an early-Eighties boogie, modern soul and electro-funk specialist. Slave, Aurra, early Prince, and Prelude Records mingle with super obscure funk gems during his set, which will feature a live component courtesy of backing band **Master Blaster** and special collaborator **Nite Jewel**. Plus DJ sets by **TLR (Crème Organization)**, **Not Sloppy Jen (M. Devonne)** and **Pickpocket (Donuts)**. At **the Mezzanine** (444 Jessie St., San Francisco) on Thursday, July 1, 9 p.m., $15. MezzanineSF.com. — *David Downs*

Reggae Night Cargo Lounge, 10 pm, free
Sweets Saturdays DJ Jesse & guests spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaeton, & more, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, $10
Warm-Up w/ DJ Platt Cat spinning hip-hop & R&B, Voodoo Lounge, 9:30 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club Downtown w/ DJ Shag spinning the hottest Bay Area rock hits, Milan's, 10 pm, free before 11 p.m. with voucher
DJ Fierce Ice Swig Bar, 9 pm, free
Electric Masquerade featuring Kim Syndic, Phrase Love, Dream [illegible], Plumber, & Kid [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, 9 pm, $11-$12
Clementi Saturdays w/ DJ Chris Unseen spinning hip-hop, rock, & oldschool, Element Lounge, 9 pm, $5
Hard French featuring the dance Amy, Cameo, [illegible], 3 pm, $5
Dance Off Flooring w/ The Digital [illegible], 1015 Folsom, 10 pm, $15
Lounge featuring DJs Aaron, Omar & Ernest James, Paradise Lounge, 10 pm, $7
New Wave City DJs dance party, DNA Lounge, 9 pm, $7 before 10 p.m., $12
Pura Dance Opening Party spinning DJs Tony D, [illegible] Eddy, The Dolomite [illegible] & more spinning salsa, merengue, Spanish reggae, cumbia, & Latin hip-hop, 1015 Folsom, 10 pm
Soundscape w/ DJs Captain, Brighton Rose, & [illegible] spinning soul jazz, funk, grooves, & more, The Vortex Room, 10 pm, $5
Dune Lounge DJs spinning smooth hip-hop, urban top 40, & funky house, Red Kat, 10 pm, $20
United Lounge of Dane spinning Cecil, Bo Brown, Call, & [illegible], 9 pm, $5

SUNDAY 4

EAST BAY

King of Kings DJ Smoke-One and guests spin house, dancehall, roots, & lovers rock, Shattuck Down Low, 8 pm, $10 ladies/students free before 11 pm
Post-Antiques Fab Room Lounge featuring DJ Flo spinning rock'n'roll and r&b, Forbidden Island, 3 pm, free
The Soul-Full Show DJ Avid Dee & guests spin soulful grooves, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free
Irable Dee & Ska Sundays DJs spin ska, rocksteady, & roots reggae, The Hotsy Totsy Club, 1 pm, free
Working Stiffs DJ Daniel Grant (Queen-nation), & old-school for bar & restaurant staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Gemini Mighty, 9 pm, $15
Dub Mission w/ DJ Sep, Maneesh the Twister, & guests spinning dub, roots & dancehall classics, Elbo Room, 9 pm, $6
Heavy Sundays w/ Heavy Soundsystem DJs spinning dance music, Paradise Lounge, 8 pm, $3 after 11 p.m.
Sunday I-Dance w/ DJs Adrian, Kinoe, Nick & Rachele, Mikey, Jon Hopkins, Cuero, Bambuhoe, Taj, Dirtyberts, DRAKE, Jose Esby, & more, The EndUp, 8 am-6 pm, $10

MONDAY 5

EAST BAY

DJ Night spinning dub, jazz, & soul, Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free
Kick Dance & Dance w/ Good 8 p.m.-9 p.m. & after 9 p.m. 2 a.m. Club 1220, 8 pm-2 am, free
Underground Lounge guests, '80s & more, Radio, 10 pm-2 pm, free
Spinning Stiffs DJ Daniel Grant (Queen-nation) & old-school for bar & restaurant staff, Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Cocoa Guild Glas Kat, 8:30 pm, $3 dance 11 p.m., $5
Blondest Dance Night Live [illegible] Blondest followed by DJs spinning all things "dead" and Jerry Garcia, Milk, $6
Outbox classic soul, funk, hip-hop, Boogie, Breaker, Blondest & more, Little Blondest, 11 pm, $3
Dawn Dance Sideshow w/ DJ Tragic & the Heathens of Bravest, Blondest Seoul, 10 pm, free
Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & Sandaro spinning roots, dub, dancehall, and reggae, Skylark, 9:30 pm, free

TUESDAY 6

EAST BAY

Cowboy Music Night plus line dancing, Club 1220, 6 pm, free
DJ Ice Solo spinning Brazilian & Latin funk, Easy Lounge, 8 pm, free
DJ Wooly spinning punk, Lost Weekend Lounge, 8 pm-2 am, free
@ the Nexus DJ Neroliny spins Lounge, [illegible] & funky house, Spin Little Lounge & Gourmet Pizza, 9 pm, free
Stay Punk! w/ DJ Scandalous spinning indie punk, Sanaaria & metal, Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Bless Up Jah Warrior Shelter DJs Jah Yzer, I-Vier & the Dole spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop, & funk, free before 11 p.m., Milk, 10 pm, $5
Alcoholocaust Sanaaria DJ Whiskeyrocket spinning old-school punk rock w/ guest DJs, Argus Lounge, 8 pm, free
Old-School spinning & SF Fusion Little Blondest, 8 pm, $3
Pacific Standard Time hip-hop & soul w/ DJ Sake-1 plus DJs guests, 330 Ritch, 10 pm, $5
Blondest drum & bass w/ DJs Jojo, Genome, & Fever plus MC Doh, Underground SF, 8 pm, $5
Sonaaria w/ DJs Carmen Sandiego, Honey Pie, Gomez, & [illegible] & guests spinning live bills and early '80s hip-hop, The Cellar, 10 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 7

EAST BAY

Afternoon Dance! w/ DJ Billy featuring Brazilian funk, & more, Kitty's, 9 pm, free
DJ This I Got Down w/ La Verita, Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 9:30 pm, free
Dave Toy w/ DJs [illegible] & Odd Mudfeet of Action, Missouri Lounge, 10 pm-2 am, free
The Scoop DJs Hoop Day spinning w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15
Perseverance Latin cowboy night w/ host Violeta, Bench and Bar, 7 pm, $6-$15
Vaiaioo Wednesdays DJ Santero & rotating guests spin salsa, bachata, merengue, reggaeton, & more, plus salsa dance lessons, Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 6 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1964 biweekly mod & psych dance club, Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, free
Bondage-a-Go-Go go-go dancers, plus DJs spinning dirty music, Glas Kat, 9:30 pm, $5 before 10:30 p.m., $7
DJ Voodoo spinning chilled-out beats, new-school soul, underground hip-hop & stripped-down Afro-fusion, Swig Bar, 9 pm, free
Escape DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & other classics, The Cellar, 10 pm, free
Mixtape Wednesday DJs Strategy, Jaren, & Beth Digs spin classic hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul, Skylark, 10 pm, $0
Baby's Oldies DJ Baby Cart spins oldies, Motown & more, Sadie's Tavern, 8-11:30 pm, free

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SAVAGE LOVE

SOUND OFF

Why one man's "tiny little baby kitten girl sounds" are killing sex for his fiancé.

By Dan Savage

I am a married white guy in my fifties. My wife and I do some role-playing where I am "Ted," her real-life father. In her script, I yell at my "bad daughter" (my wife) over some infraction and send her to her room. Later on, I sneak in and tell her that she could "make Daddy very happy" if we were to do some "secret special things" together. I usually end up fingering her still-virginal butt while "forcing" her to suck my dick. Then I roll her over and rape the hell out of her.

I'm being GGG, and she absolutely gets off on it. We've done this scene a few times, with increasing frequency, following her script every time. I do have some concerns, Dan: (1) It's creepy, and (2) I'm worried that this might all be "based on a true story."

What to do? Keep a good thing going or confront her about her father? I'm going to feel like an idiot if it's all just a harmless fantasy.

Concerned "Father"

What if it is based on a true story?

Let's suppose your wife was raped by her actual father and — after years of processing the abuse and the trauma — she emerged happy and healthy and stable, but ... saddled with an all-consuming, high-creep-quotient incest role-play fetish. Your wife isn't alone. A small handful of rape victims develop fantasies about rape role-play scenarios, and an even smaller number of Holocaust survivors developed Nazi role-play fantasies.

Sometimes our erotic imaginations are as inexplicable as they are powerful.

Now let's suppose that your wife is healthy enough emotionally and sexually to safely explore these deeply creepy fantasies — because now she's in complete control, because now she's with someone she loves and trusts — and that she isn't traumatized by reenacting these deeply creepy scenes from her childhood. Shouldn't she have just as much a right to enjoy and explore her sexuality as any other person, CF, regardless of the forces that shaped it?

I'd say the answer to that question is yes.

All that said, CF, you have a right to ask pointed questions — particularly if "Ted" is still alive and you have to sit next to him at Thanksgiving — and she has a responsibility to come through with detailed, honest answers. You're not some casual up-for-anything stranger your wife recruited online. You're her husband, and you have a right to know just what sort of land mines you're stomping on or around, even if your wife considers them defused and harmless. Because there are huge potential consequences for you — emotional and sexual — if your wife is being traumatized by the role-play games she's asked you to participate in.

And, finally, here's hoping it's all just a fantasy and that your wife wasn't raped by her father, CF, although that isn't going to make her fantasies any less creepy or Thanksgiving dinner with Ted any less awkward.

I'm a 29-year-old single gay man. One of my siblings (with whom I was close) passed away about a month ago. I want to start dating again, but I'm not sure how to tell if I am or when I will be ready. I don't want to be unloading my issues on potential first dates (that's why I'm starting to see a therapist), but during the getting-to-know-you small talk, siblings always seem to come up. How do I handle this without seeming unmoved by my sibling's death and without scaring off the other guy?

Trying To Move Forward

While you don't want to burden a potential new boyfriend (PNB) with the full weight of your grief, the only PNBs you'll scare off by mentioning your grief are PNBs with empty lube bottles where their hearts should be — that is, PNBs with no potential. PNBs you should be anxious to be rid of.

So when the sibling talk comes up, mention your recently deceased sibling, accept your PNB's condolences, and then change the subject. What that communicates about you, PNB-wise, is this: You've been touched by grief recently, but you're not paralyzed by it, and you're ready to date. And I'm so sorry for your loss.

Please help me. I can no longer stand the thought of having sex with my fiancé. He's a great guy — very kind and good. The problem is the sounds he makes during sex. Little whiny girl sounds. Like, not even women sounds — which, being attracted to men, would be a big enough problem for me. No, he makes noises like a tiny little baby kitten girl. It has gotten really bad. I avoid sex (we usually don't even sleep in the same bed, although we live together). When we do have sex, I spend the first half dreading the moment the girlie sighs start and the second half trying to ignore them. So basically I'm checked out for both halves — which he notices and obviously doesn't like.

I know this sounds trivial, and it wasn't such a big problem for the first year of our relationship. But it has grown from small annoyance to giant, grating, huge turnoff. I don't know how to tell him to stop. I have brought it up before, but it sounds so stupid, and then he gets self-conscious and I feel bad. I can't marry him under these circumstances, though. What do I do?

Ears Plugged

Your kind and good fiancé deserves the truth. And come on, EP, what do you think is going to make him feel worse: you leveling with him about the damage his tiny little baby kitten girl sounds (TLBKGS) are doing — to his sex life, to his relationship — or you calling off the marriage because you just can't fuck him anymore?

Here's what you need to do. Tell the fiancé again, calmly but firmly, that the TLBKGS are a huge turnoff. It'll hurt to hear, for sure, but he'll hurt worse if you let the TLBKGS destroy your marriage before it starts. Then the next time you're fucking him and he starts to make TLBKGS, stop everything. Don't pull away from him physically, don't push him off you, don't scowl or grimace or roll your eyes. Just stop whatever it is you're doing and say in a flat, nonaccusatory tone: "That sound you're making is a huge turnoff. It kills sex for me." Wait for an appropriate response and then immediately pick up where you left off. I've seen this approach work on biters, screamers, scratchers, and [illegible] fuck-me-spankers. It'll work on tiny little baby kitten girl sounds, too.

mail@savagelove.net

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MONTANA EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
GALLATIN COUNTY
CASE No. DP 10-48A
Department 1
Hon. Judge Holly Brown
In the Matter of
THE JON KARL MANKE TRUST
BEAT JON MANKE and KARL VERNON MANKE,
Petitioners,
v.
DEBRA LYNNE GARCIA, a/k/a DEBRA LYNNE TEMPLE,
Respondent
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF MONTANA SENDS GREETINGS TO THE ABOVE NAMED RESPONDENT DEBRA LYNNE GARCIA, a/k/a DEBRA LYNNE TEMPLE:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Verified Petition for Preliminary Injunction, Discharge of Trustee and Other Relief in this action which is filed in the Office of the Clerk of this Court, a copy of which is herewith served upon you, and to file your Answer and serve a copy thereof upon Petitioners' attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Verified Petition.

That action is brought for the purpose of protecting the corpus of and effectuating the purpose of the Jon Manke Irrevocable Living Trust, which has a Montana situs, and which includes a parcel of real property situated in Gallatin County, Montana, particularly described as follows:

Tract 8, of Dependent Survey No. 29, also known as Cedar Meadows, a portion of land located in Sections 5 and 6, Township 1 South, Range 4 East, P.M.M., Gallatin County, Montana, to the official plat thereof on file and of record in the office of the County Clerk and Recorder, Gallatin County, Montana.

WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court this 22nd day of June, 2010.
Jennifer Brandon
Gallatin County Clerk of Court
[COURT SEAL]
By Julie Church, Deputy Clerk
6/30, 7/7, 7/14/2010

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY
CASE NO. EQCV018334
ORIGINAL NOTICE
PEOPLES BANK,
Plaintiff, Vs. NORTHERN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY, INC., a Minnesota Corporation; SIBLEY HILLS, L.L.C.; HENRY HILLS, L.L.C.; LJ TRUST, L.L.C.; ZACHARY RIDGE, L.L.C.; NORTHERN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY ALLENDORF, L.L.C.; NORTHERN ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SIBLEY, L.L.C.; WIND VENTURES I; MICON WIND TURBINES US, INC.; C. BRAAKSMA INC.; BANK IOWA; IOWA STATE BANK OF LAWLER; ANCHOR BANK HERITAGE, N.A.; AMERICAN BANK OF SAINT PAUL; RIDER BENNETT, L.L.P.; PATRICK FINN and LIGHTHOUSE MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC., AND PARTIES IN POSSESSION,
Defendants.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS

You are notified that a petition has been filed in the office of the clerk of this court naming you as a defendant in this action, which petition prays for judgment in rem against real estate in Osceola County, together with interest and attorney fees. The attorney for the plaintiff is Rebecca A. Nelson, whose address is 522 4th St., Suite 300, Sioux City, Iowa 51101. The attorney's telephone number is (712)277-2373; facsimile number (712)277-3304. You must serve a motion or answer on or before the 27 day of July, 2010, and within a reasonable time thereafter, file your motion or answer with the Clerk of Court for Osceola County at the courthouse in Sibley, Iowa. If you do not, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the petition.

If you require the assistance of auxiliary aids or services to participate in court because of a disability, immediately call your district ADA coordinator at (712)279-6035. (If you are hearing impaired, call Relay Iowa TTY at 1-800-735-2942.)

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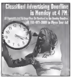
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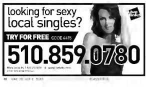
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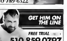
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